MARVEL

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

WEST & MONTANO

IN THE YEAR 3000

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

IN THE YEAR 3000

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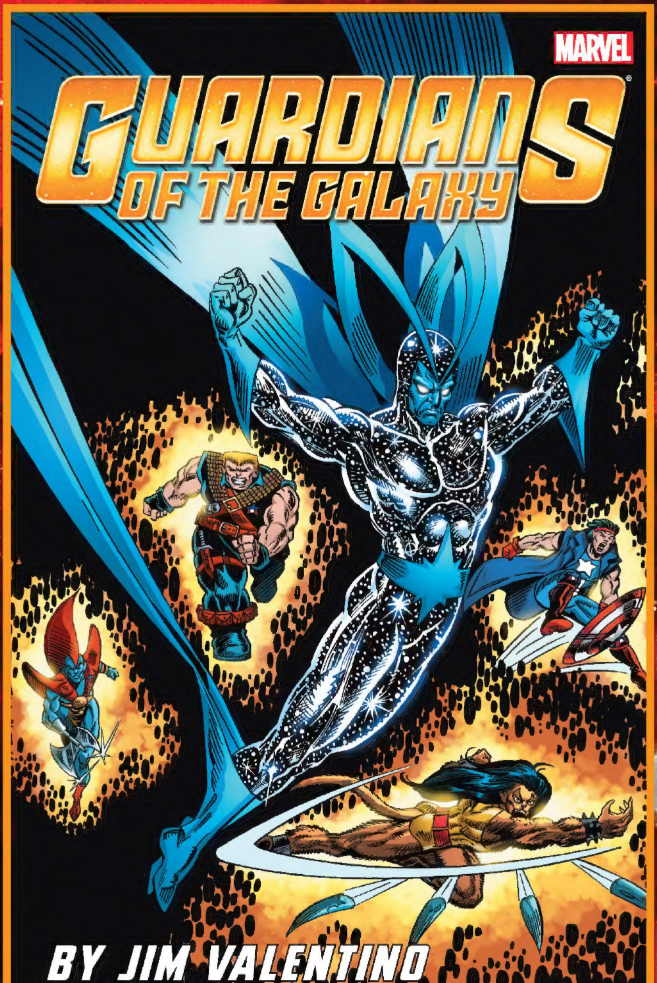
PREVIOUSLY...

Hoping to retroactively prevent the massive Badoon assault that slaughtered the populations of the Solar System's inhabited planets several years before, Starhawk suggested that the Guardians of the Galaxy travel back in time and launch a pre-emptive strike against the Badoon homeworld. Nikki, Talon and Charlie-27 agreed, and quickly launched the Guardians' massive space station Drydock into the timestream. Team leader Major Victory was violently opposed to what he saw as committing pre-emptive genocide, but the rest of the team ignored and overruled him.

Arriving in the modern-day Marvel Universe, the Guardians unexpectedly found themselves entangled in the "Infinity War" - a complex gambit by the villainous Magus, who sent evil doppelgangers to attack and replace every hero on earth. The Avengers had departed to deal with the crisis, and the Guardians arrived to find Avengers Mansion empty, save for Jarvis and the support staff.

Doctor Octopus hoped to take advantage of the crisis by seizing the mansion with a hastily assembled team of villains, but the Guardians battled them - along with another wave of the Magus' doppelgangers - and ultimately defeated both groups. During the fight, the villainous Yellowjacket befriended Nikki and switched sides, and remained behind after the villains' retreat to help the Guardians repair the damaged mansion.

Get the full story in the **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY BY JIM VALENTINO VOL. 3 TPB!**



EXPLORE THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IN THE 31ST CENTURY WITH THE
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
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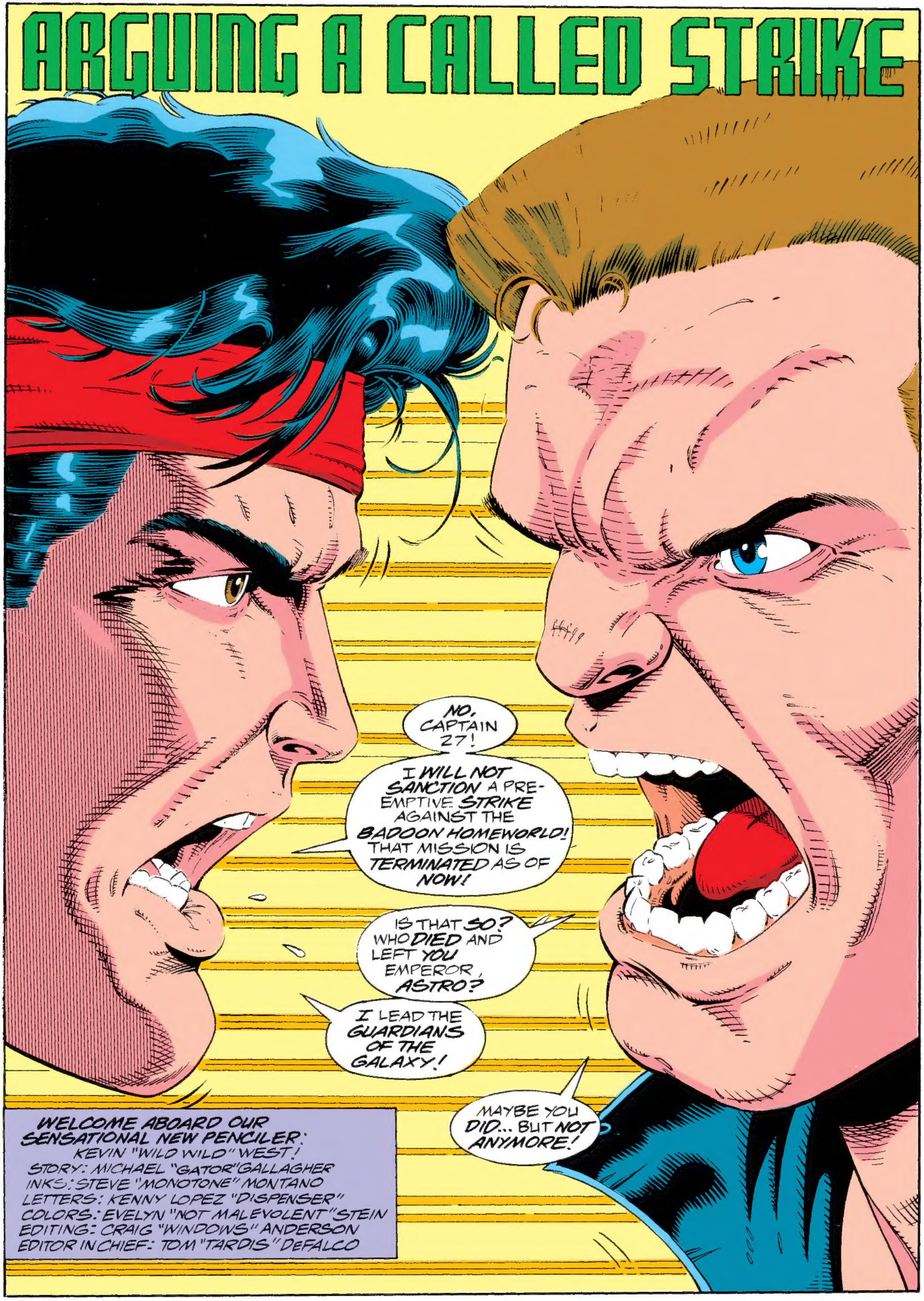
I QUIT!
WEST & MONTANO

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ARGUING A CALLED STRIKE


NO, CAPTAIN 27! I WILL NOT SANCTION A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST THE BADOON HOMEWORLD! THAT MISSION IS TERMINATED AS OF NOW!
IS THAT SO? WHO DIED AND LEFT YOU EMPEROR, ASTRO?
I LEAD THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!
MAYBE YOU DID... BUT NOT ANYMORE!
WELCOME ABOARD OUR SENSATIONAL NEW PENCILER: KEVIN "WILD WILD" WEST!
STORY: MICHAEL "GATOR" GALLAGHER
INKS: STEVE "MONOTONE" MONTANO
LETTERS: KENNY LOPEZ "DISPENSER"
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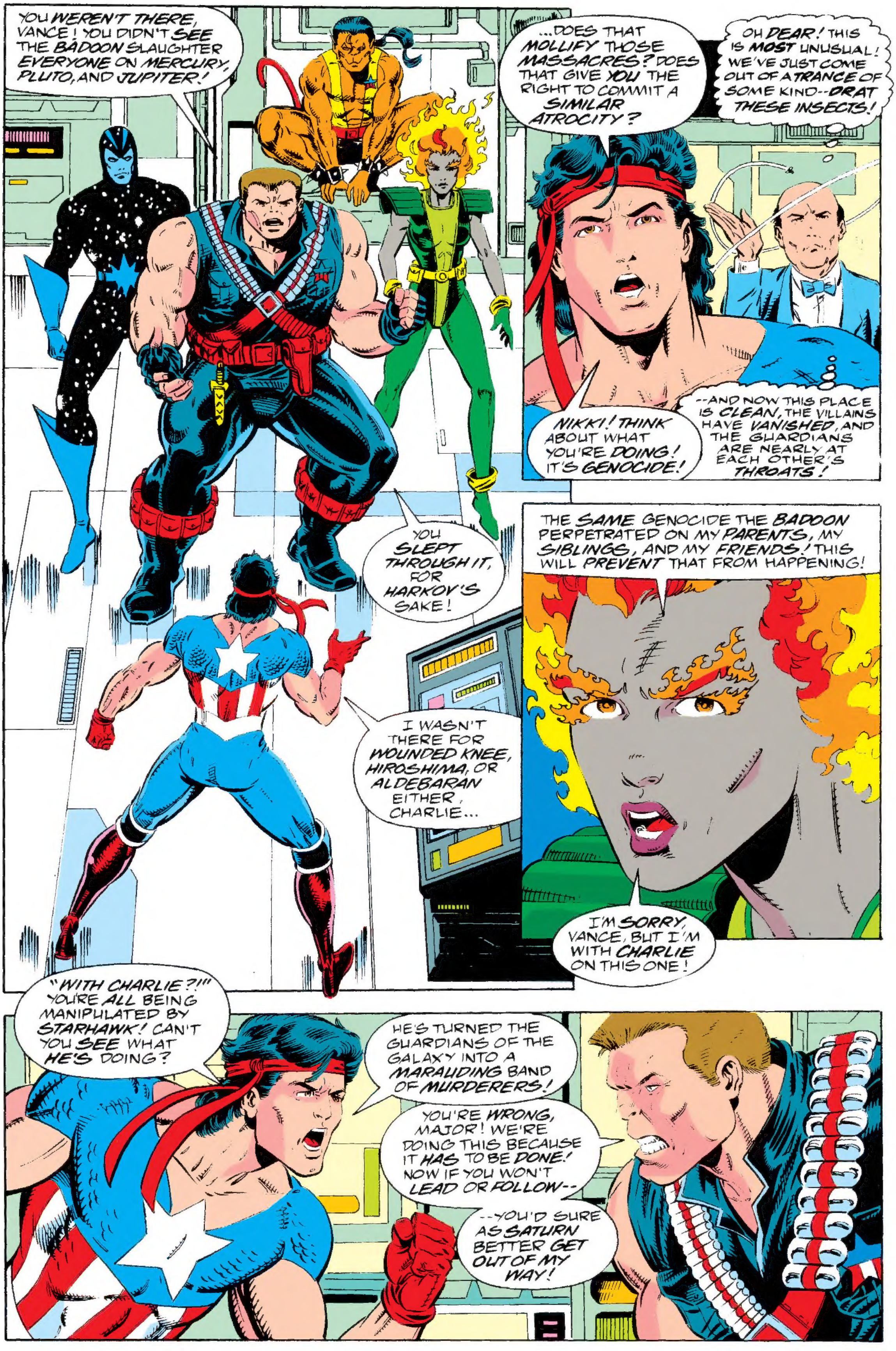
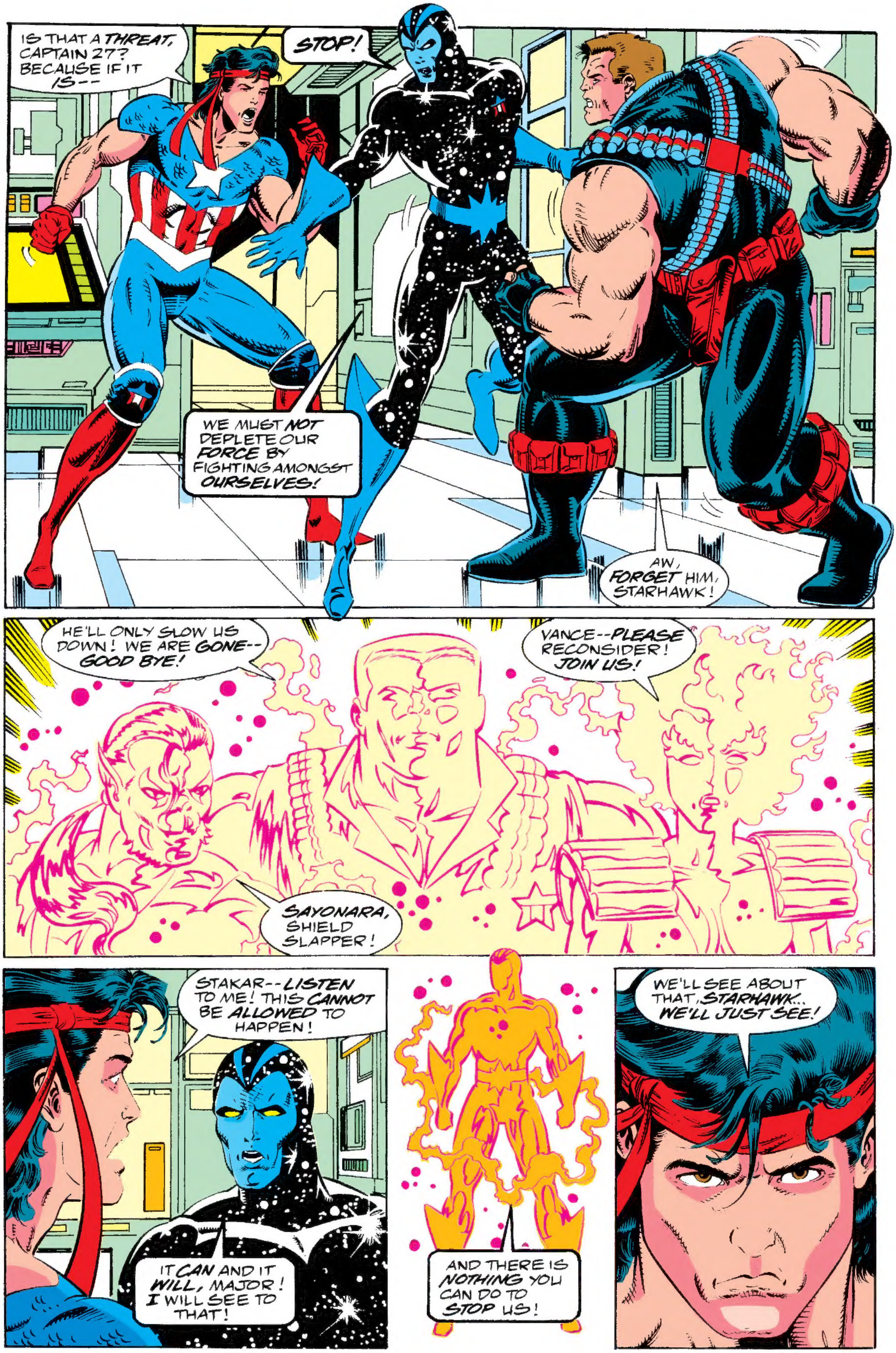
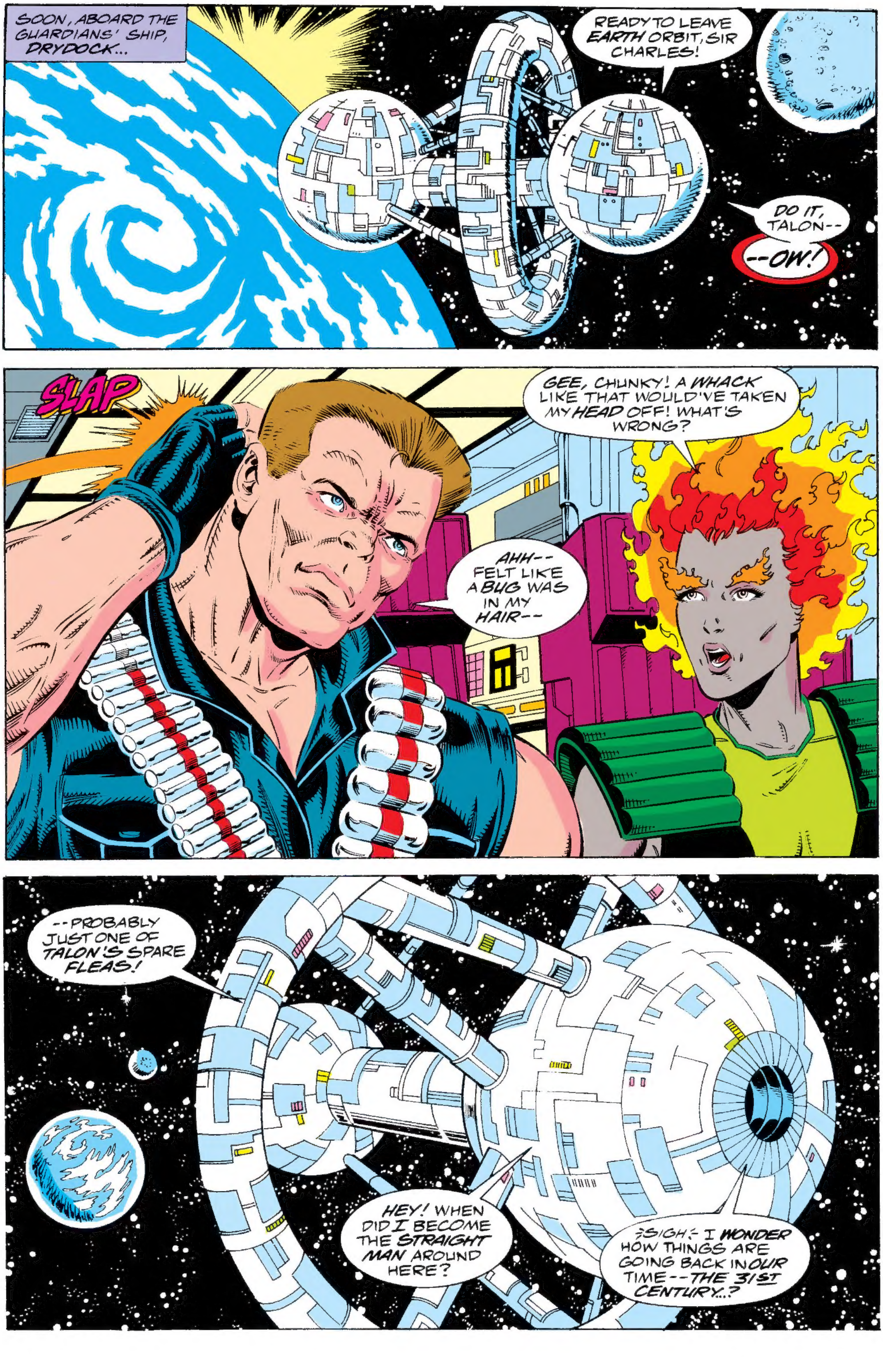
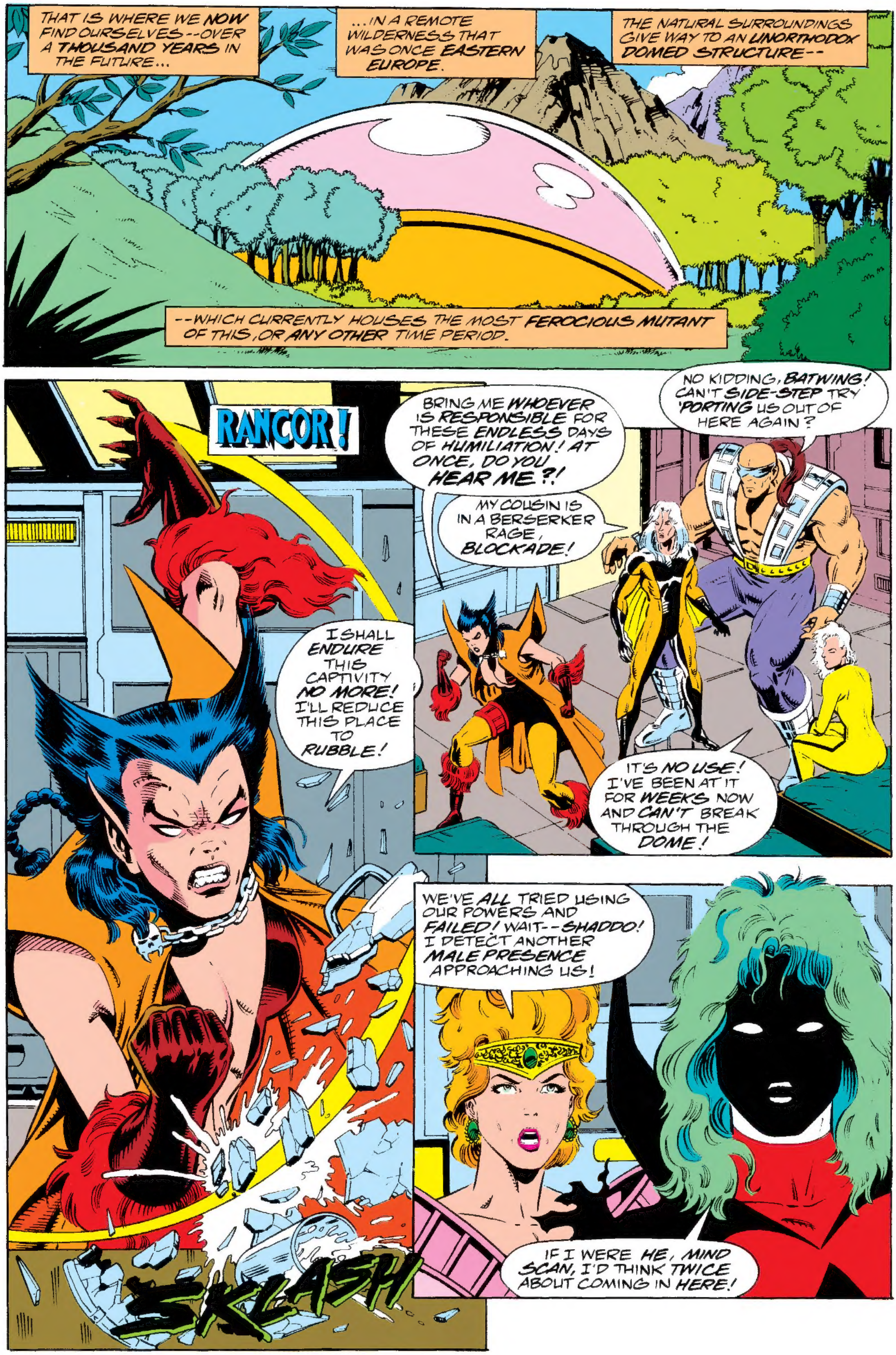
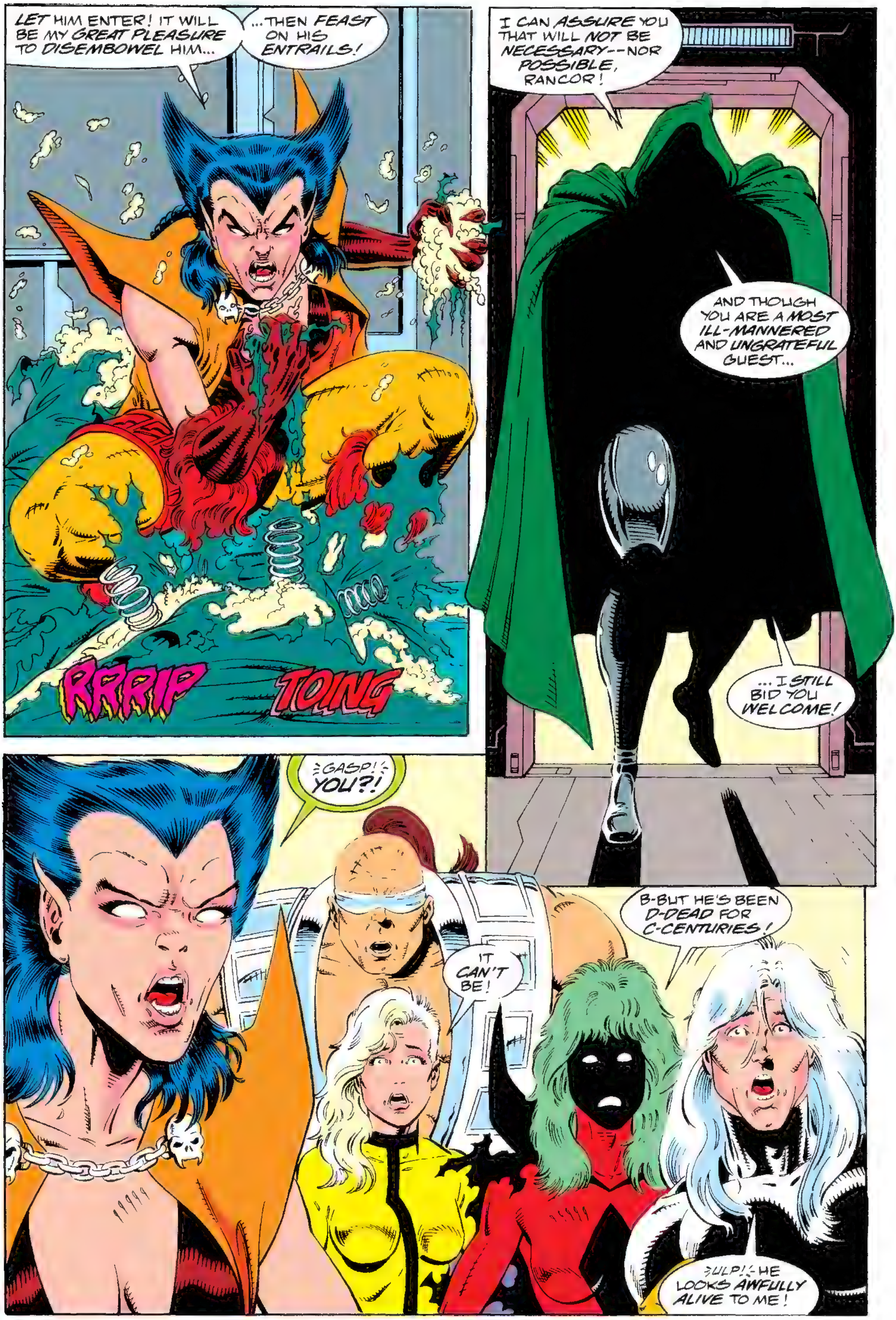
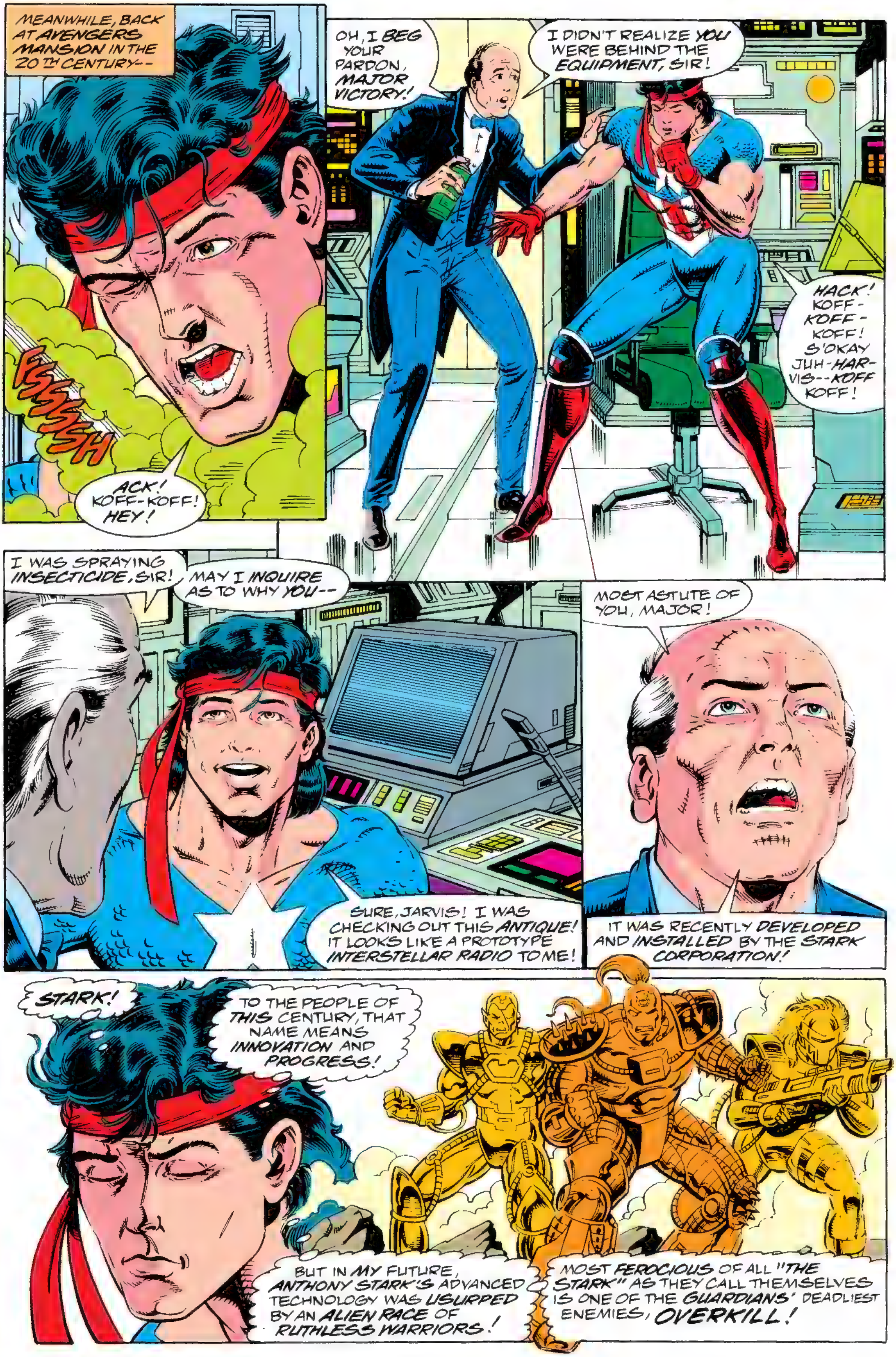

YOU WEREN'T THERE, VANCE! YOU DIDN'T SEE THE BADOON SLAUGHTER EVERYONE ON MERCURY, PLUTO, AND JUPITER!
YOU SLEPT THROUGH IT, FOR HARKOV'S SAKE!
I WASN'T THERE FOR WOUNDED KNEE, HIROSHIMA, OR ALDEBARAN EITHER, CHARLIE...
...DOES THAT MOLLIFY THOSE MASSACRES? DOES THAT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO COMMIT A SIMILAR ATROCITY?
OH DEAR! THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL! WE'VE JUST COME OUT OF A TRANCE OF SOME KIND--DRAT THESE INSECTS!
NIKKI! THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING! IT'S GENOCIDE!
--AND NOW THIS PLACE IS CLEAN, THE VILLAINS HAVE VANISHED, AND THE GUARDIANS ARE NEARLY AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS!
THE SAME GENOCIDE THE BADOON PERPETRATED ON MY PARENTS, MY SIBLINGS, AND MY FRIENDS! THIS WILL PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING!
I'M SORRY, VANCE, BUT I'M WITH CHARLIE ON THIS ONE!
"WITH CHARLIE?!" YOU'RE ALL BEING MANIPULATED BY STARHAWK! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT HE'S DOING?
HE'S TURNED THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY INTO A MARAUDING BAND OF MURDERERS!
YOU'RE WRONG, MAJOR! WE'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE IT HAS TO BE DONE! NOW IF YOU WON'T LEAD OR FOLLOW--
--YOU'D SURE AS SATURN BETTER GET OUT OF MY WAY!]

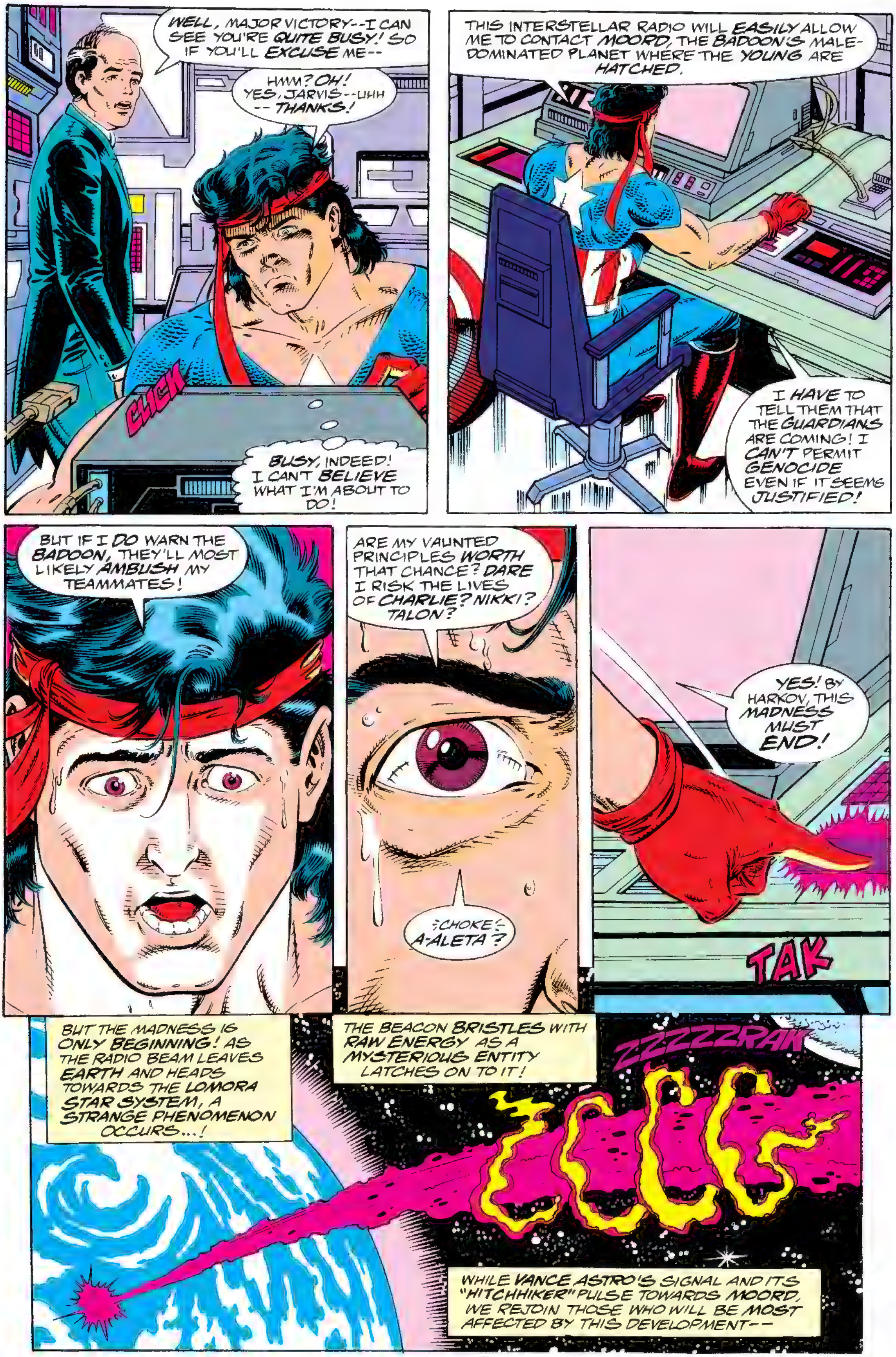

IS THAT A THREAT, CAPTAIN 27? BECAUSE IF IT IS--
STOP!
WE MUST NOT DEPLETE OUR FORCE BY FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES!
AW, FORGET HIM, STARHAWK!
HE'LL ONLY SLOW US DOWN! WE ARE GONE-- GOOD BYE!
VANCE--PLEASE RECONSIDER! JOIN US!
SAYONARA, SHIELD SLAPPER!
STAKAR--LISTEN TO ME! THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!
IT CAN AND IT WILL, MAJOR! I WILL SEE TO THAT!
AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP US!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, STARHAWK... WE'LL JUST SEE!

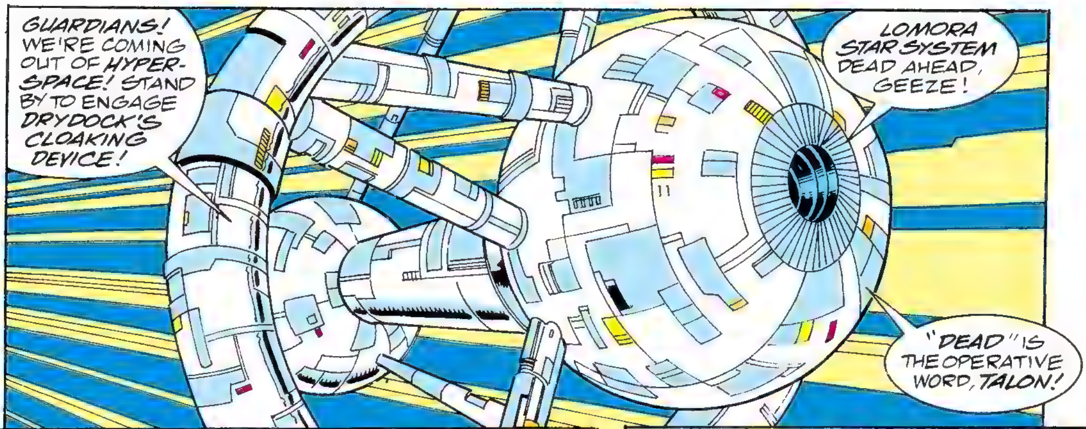

SOON, ABOARD THE GUARDIANS' SHIP, *DRYDOCK*...
READY TO LEAVE *EARTH* ORBIT, SIR CHARLES!
DO IT, TALON--
--*OW!*
SLAP
GEE, CHUNKY! A *WHACK* LIKE THAT WOULD'VE TAKEN MY *HEAD* OFF! WHAT'S WRONG?
AHH-- FELT LIKE A *BUG* WAS IN MY *HAIR--*
--PROBABLY JUST ONE OF *TALON'S* SPARE *FLEAS!*
HEY! WHEN DID *I* BECOME THE *STRAIGHT MAN* AROUND HERE?
SIGH I *WONDER* HOW THINGS ARE GOING BACK IN *OUR* TIME--*THE 31ST CENTURY..?*

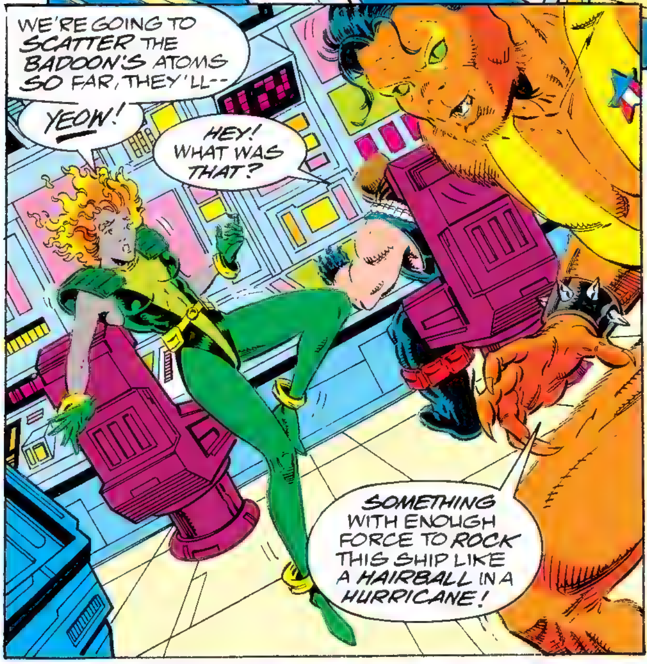

THAT IS WHERE WE NOW FIND OURSELVES--OVER A THOUSAND YEARS IN THE FUTURE...
...IN A REMOTE WILDERNESS THAT WAS ONCE EASTERN EUROPE.
THE NATURAL SURROUNDINGS GIVE WAY TO AN UNORTHODOX DOMED STRUCTURE--
--WHICH CURRENTLY HOUSES THE MOST FEROCIOUS MUTANT OF THIS, OR ANY OTHER TIME PERIOD.
RANCOR!
I SHALL ENDURE THIS CAPTIVITY NO MORE! I'LL REDUCE THIS PLACE TO RUBBLE!
SKLASH
BRING ME WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ENDLESS DAYS OF HUMILIATION! AT ONCE, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
MY COUSIN IS IN A BERSERKER RAGE, BLOCKADE!
NO KIDDING, BATWING! CAN'T SIDE-STEP TRY 'PORTING US OUT OF HERE AGAIN?
IT'S NO USE! I'VE BEEN AT IT FOR WEEKS NOW AND CAN'T BREAK THROUGH THE DOME!
WE'VE ALL TRIED USING OUR POWERS AND FAILED! WAIT--SHADDO! I DETECT ANOTHER MALE PRESENCE APPROACHING US!
IF I WERE HE, MIND SCAN, I'D THINK TWICE ABOUT COMING IN HERE!

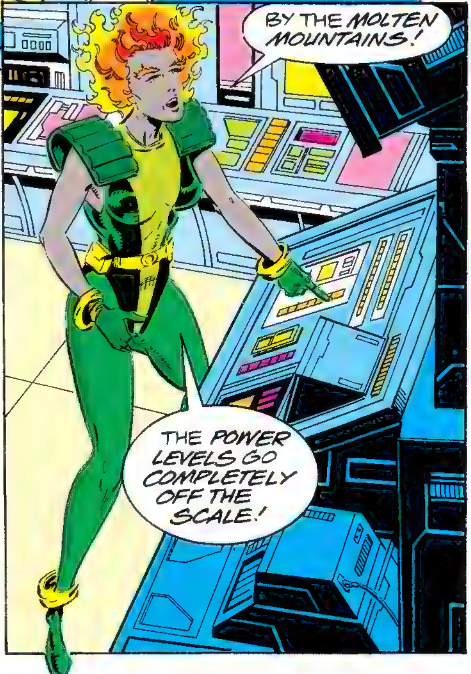

LET HIM ENTER! IT WILL BE MY GREAT PLEASURE TO DISEMBOWEL HIM...
...THEN FEAST ON HIS ENTRAILS!
RRRIP
TOING
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY--NOR POSSIBLE, RANCOR!
AND THOUGH YOU ARE A MOST ILL-MANNERED AND UNGRATEFUL GUEST...
...I STILL BID YOU WELCOME!
GASP! YOU?!
IT CAN'T BE!
B-BUT HE'S BEEN D-DEAD FOR C-CENTURIES!
GULP! HE LOOKS AWFULLY ALIVE TO ME!

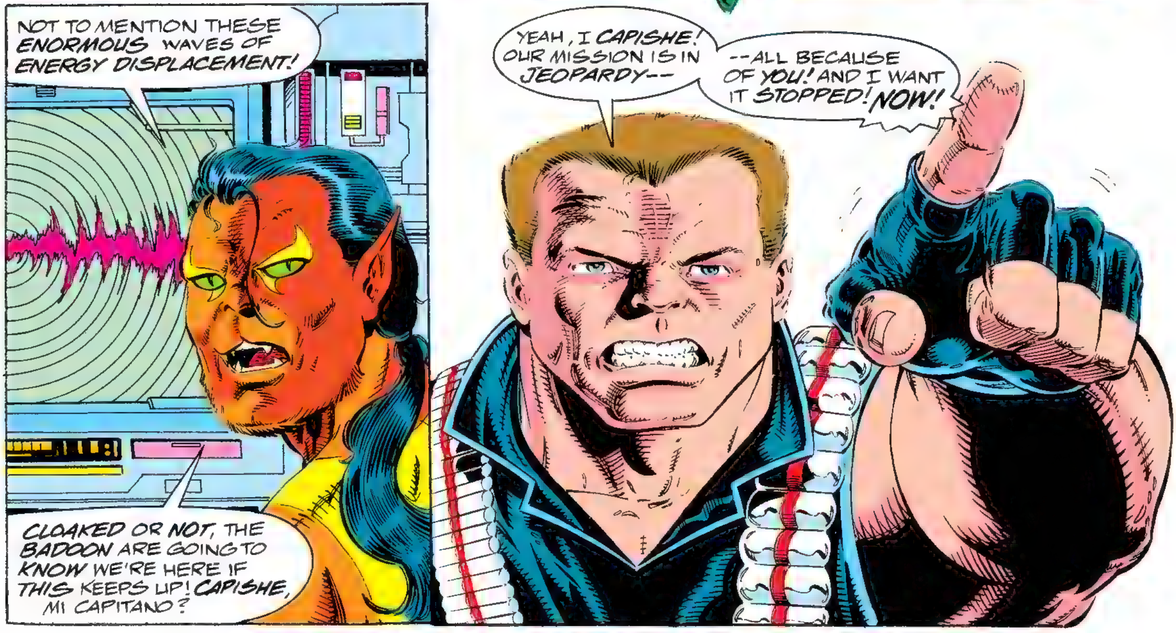

MEANWHILE, BACK AT AVENGERS MANSION IN THE 20TH CENTURY--
FSSSSH
ACK! KOFF-KOFF! HEY!
OH, I BEG YOUR PARDON, MAJOR VICTORY!
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BEHIND THE EQUIPMENT, SIR!
HACK! KOFF-KOFF-KOFF! S'OKAY JUH-HAR-VIS--KOFF KOFF!
I WAS SPRAYING INSECTICIDE, SIR!
MAY I INQUIRE AS TO WHY YOU--
SURE, JARVIS! I WAS CHECKING OUT THIS ANTIQUE! IT LOOKS LIKE A PROTOTYPE INTERSTELLAR RADIO TO ME!
MOST ASTUTE OF YOU, MAJOR!
IT WAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED AND INSTALLED BY THE STARK CORPORATION!
STARK!
TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CENTURY, THAT NAME MEANS INNOVATION AND PROGRESS!
BUT IN MY FUTURE, ANTHONY STARK'S ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WAS USURPED BY AN ALIEN RACE OF RUTHLESS WARRIORS!
MOST FEROCIOUS OF ALL "THE STARK" AS THEY CALL THEMSELVES IS ONE OF THE GUARDIANS' DEADLIEST ENEMIES, OVERKILL!

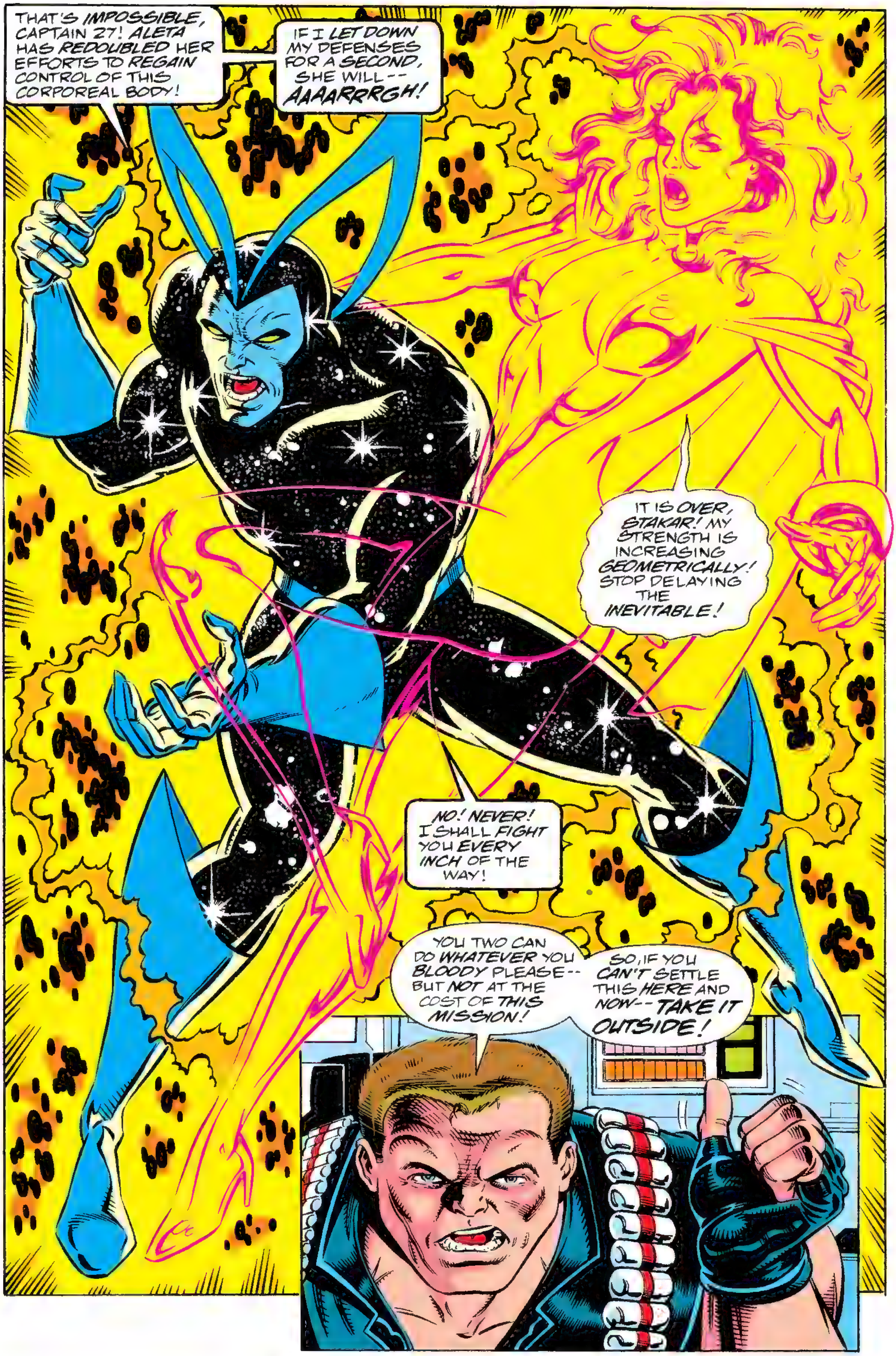

WELL, MAJOR VICTORY--I CAN SEE YOU'RE QUITE BUSY! SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--
HMM? OH! YES, JARVIS--UHH --THANKS!
CLICK
BUSY, INDEED! I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO!
THIS INTERSTELLAR RADIO WILL EASILY ALLOW ME TO CONTACT MOORD, THE BADOON'S MALE-DOMINATED PLANET WHERE THE YOUNG ARE HATCHED.
I HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT THE GUARDIANS ARE COMING! I CAN'T PERMIT GENOCIDE EVEN IF IT SEEMS JUSTIFIED!
BUT IF I DO WARN THE BADOON, THEY'LL MOST LIKELY AMBUSH MY TEAMMATES!
ARE MY VAUNTED PRINCIPLES WORTH THAT CHANCE? DARE I RISK THE LIVES OF CHARLIE? NIKKI? TALON?
:CHOKE: A-ALETA?
YES! BY HARKOV, THIS MADNESS MUST END!
TAK
BUT THE MADNESS IS ONLY BEGINNING! AS THE RADIO BEAM LEAVES EARTH AND HEADS TOWARDS THE LOMORA STAR SYSTEM, A STRANGE PHENOMENON OCCURS...!
THE BEACON BRISTLES WITH RAW ENERGY AS A MYSTERIOUS ENTITY LATCHES ON TO IT!
ZZZZZRAK
ECCG
WHILE VANCE ASTRO'S SIGNAL AND ITS "HITCHHIKER" PULSE TOWARDS MOORD, WE REJOIN THOSE WHO WILL BE MOST AFFECTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT--

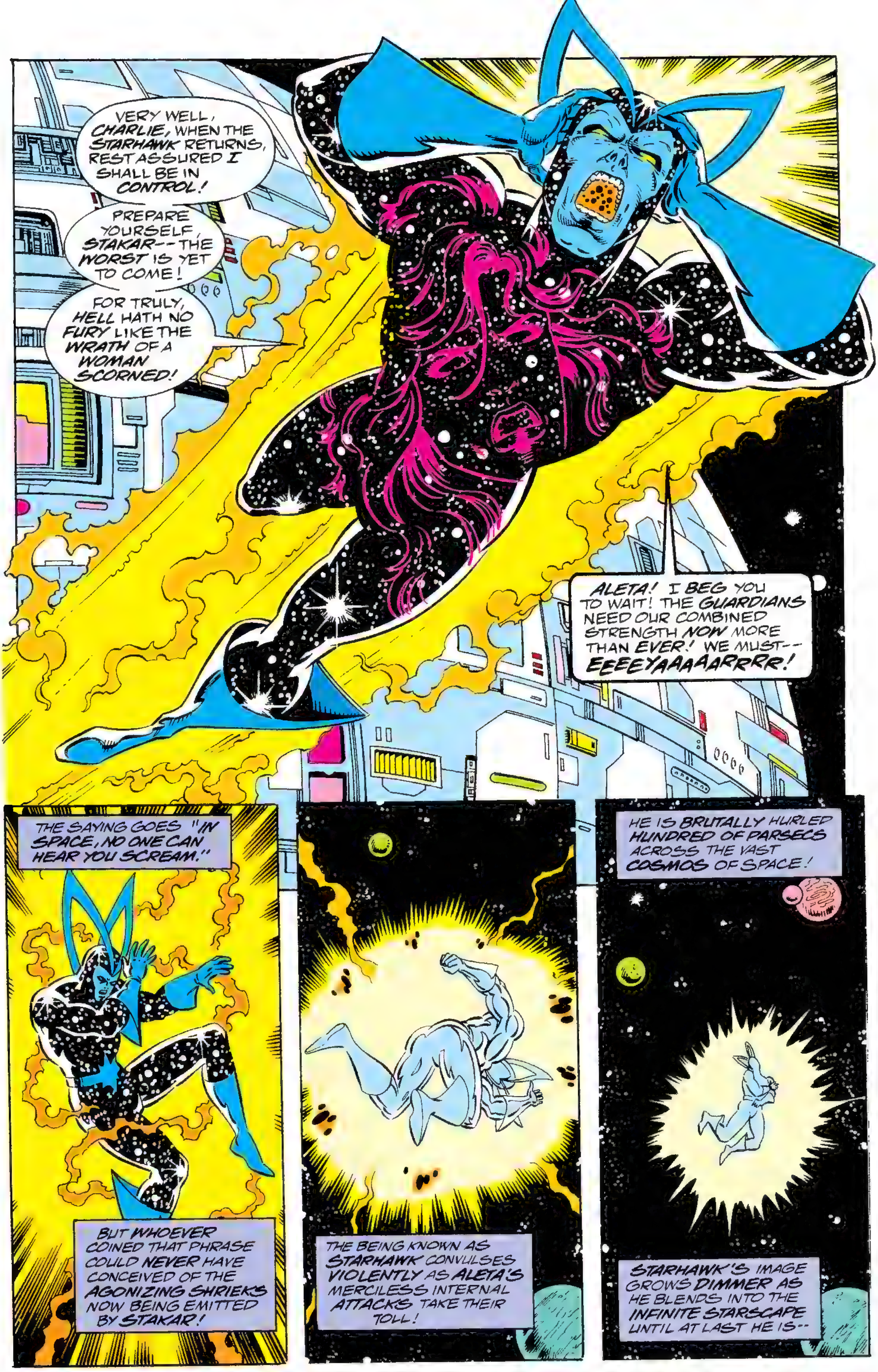

GUARDIANS! WE'RE COMING OUT OF HYPER-SPACE! STAND BY TO ENGAGE DRYDOCK'S CLOAKING DEVICE!
LOMORA STAR SYSTEM DEAD AHEAD, GEEZE!
"DEAD" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD, TALON!

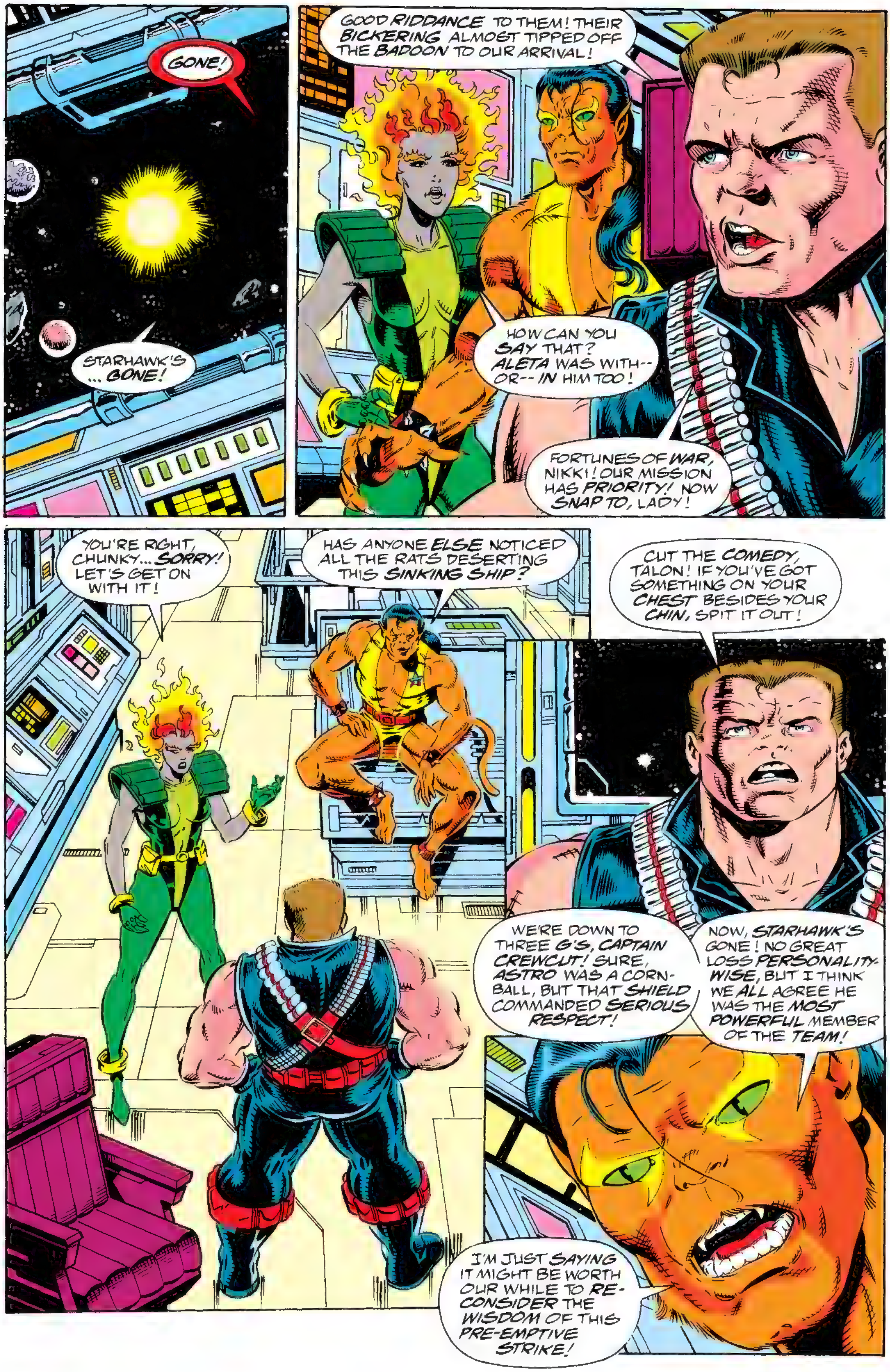

WE'RE GOING TO SCATTER THE BADOON'S ATOMS SO FAR, THEY'LL--
YEOW!
HEY! WHAT WAS THAT?
SOMETHING WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO ROCK THIS SHIP LIKE A HAIRBALL IN A HURRICANE!

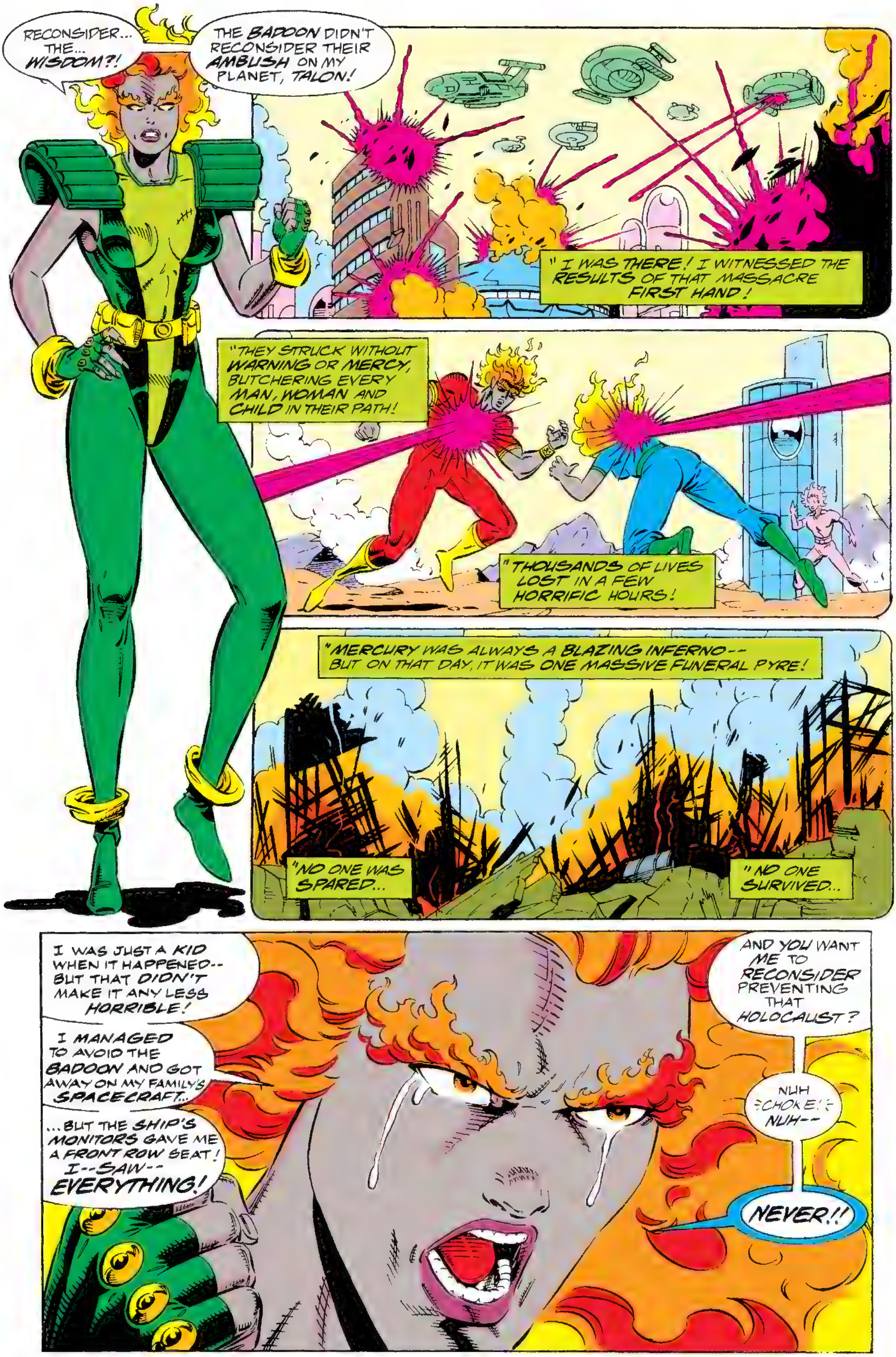

BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS!
THE POWER LEVELS GO COMPLETELY OFF THE SCALE!

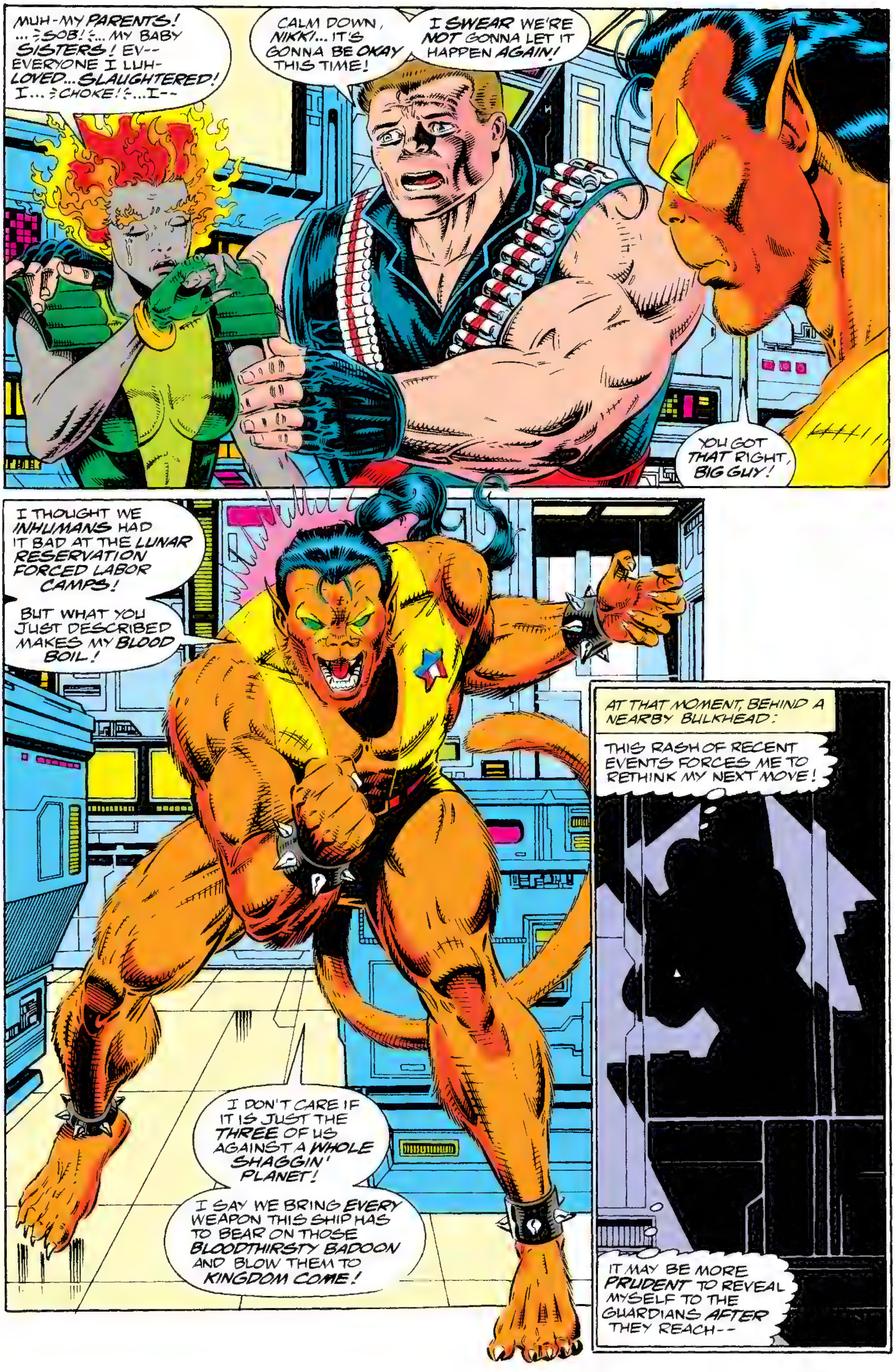

NOT TO MENTION THESE ENORMOUS WAVES OF ENERGY DISPLACEMENT!
YEAH, I CAPISHE! OUR MISSION IS IN JEOPARDY--
--ALL BECAUSE OF YOU! AND I WANT IT STOPPED! NOW!
CLOAKED OR NOT, THE BADOON ARE GOING TO KNOW WE'RE HERE IF THIS KEEPS UP! CAPISHE, MI CAPITANO?

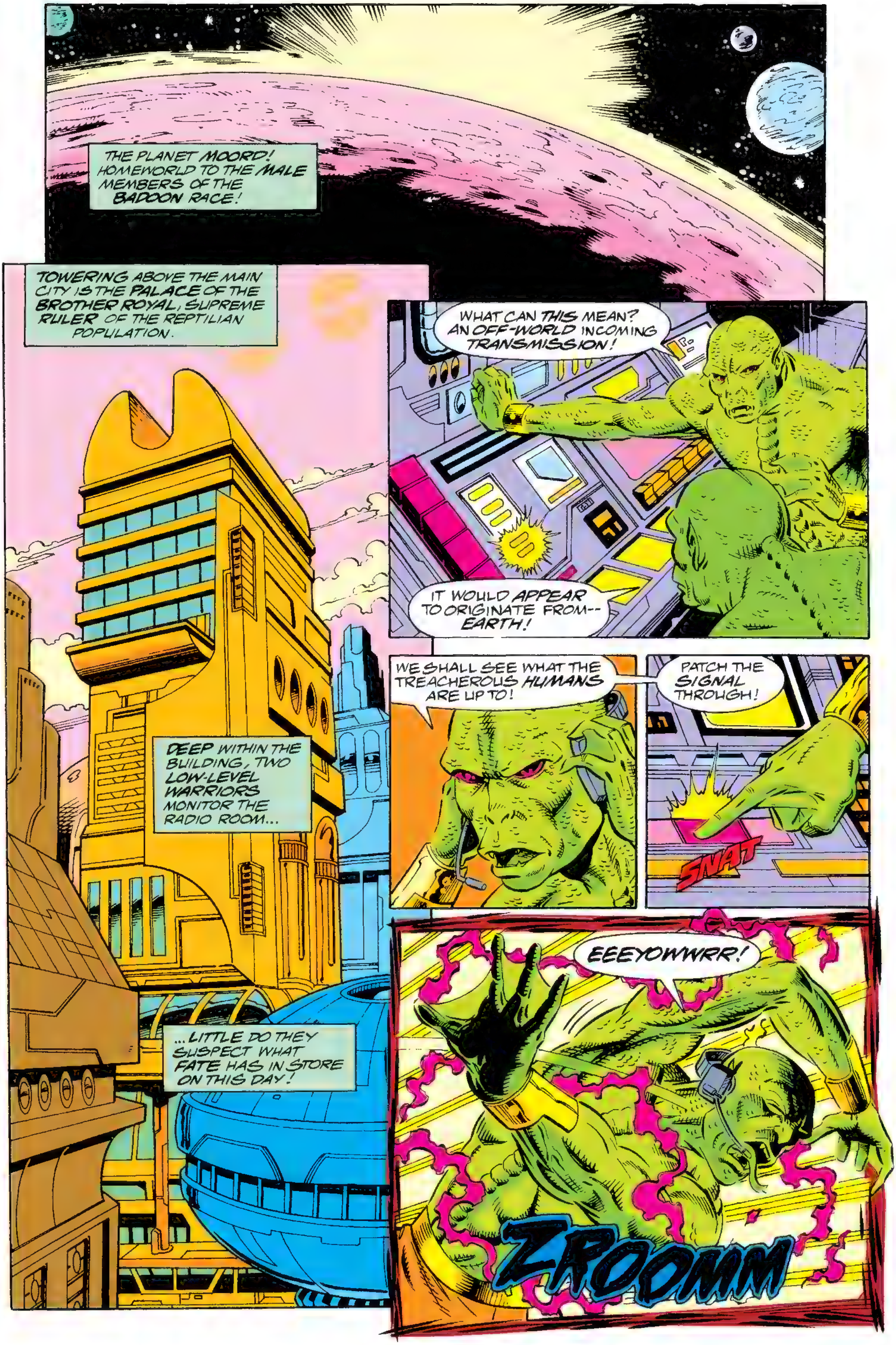

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, CAPTAIN 27! ALETA HAS REDOUBLED HER EFFORTS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THIS CORPOREAL BODY!
IF I LET DOWN MY DEFENSES FOR A SECOND, SHE WILL-- AAAARRRGH!
IT IS OVER, STAKAR! MY STRENGTH IS INCREASING GEOMETRICALLY! STOP DELAYING THE INEVITABLE!
NO! NEVER! I SHALL FIGHT YOU EVERY INCH OF THE WAY!
YOU TWO CAN DO WHATEVER YOU BLOODY PLEASE-- BUT NOT AT THE COST OF THIS MISSION!
SO, IF YOU CAN'T SETTLE THIS HERE AND NOW-- TAKE IT OUTSIDE!

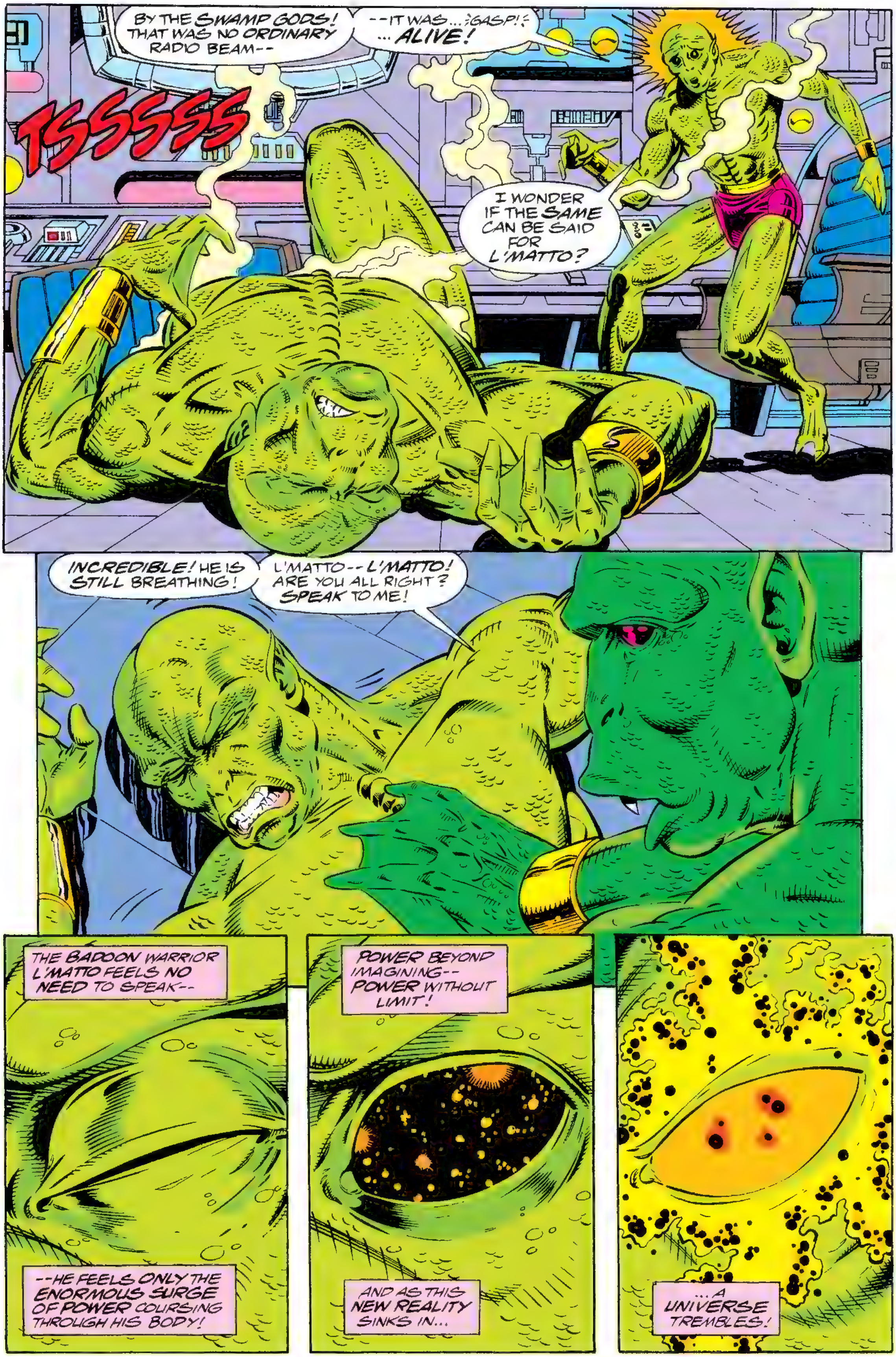

VERY WELL, CHARLIE, WHEN THE STARHAWK RETURNS, REST ASSURED I SHALL BE IN CONTROL!
PREPARE YOURSELF, STAKAR-- THE WORST IS YET TO COME!
FOR TRULY, HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE THE WRATH OF A WOMAN SCORNED!
ALETA! I BEG YOU TO WAIT! THE GUARDIANS NEED OUR COMBINED STRENGTH NOW MORE THAN EVER! WE MUST-- EEEEYAAAAARRRR!
THE SAYING GOES "IN SPACE, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM."
BUT WHOEVER COINED THAT PHRASE COULD NEVER HAVE CONCEIVED OF THE AGONIZING SHRIEKS NOW BEING EMITTED BY STAKAR!
THE BEING KNOWN AS STARHAWK CONVULSES VIOLENTLY AS ALETA'S MERCILESS INTERNAL ATTACKS TAKE THEIR TOLL!
HE IS BRUTALLY HURLED HUNDRED OF PARSECS ACROSS THE VAST COSMOS OF SPACE!
STARHAWK'S IMAGE GROWS DIMMER AS HE BLENDS INTO THE INFINITE STARSCAPE UNTIL AT LAST HE IS--

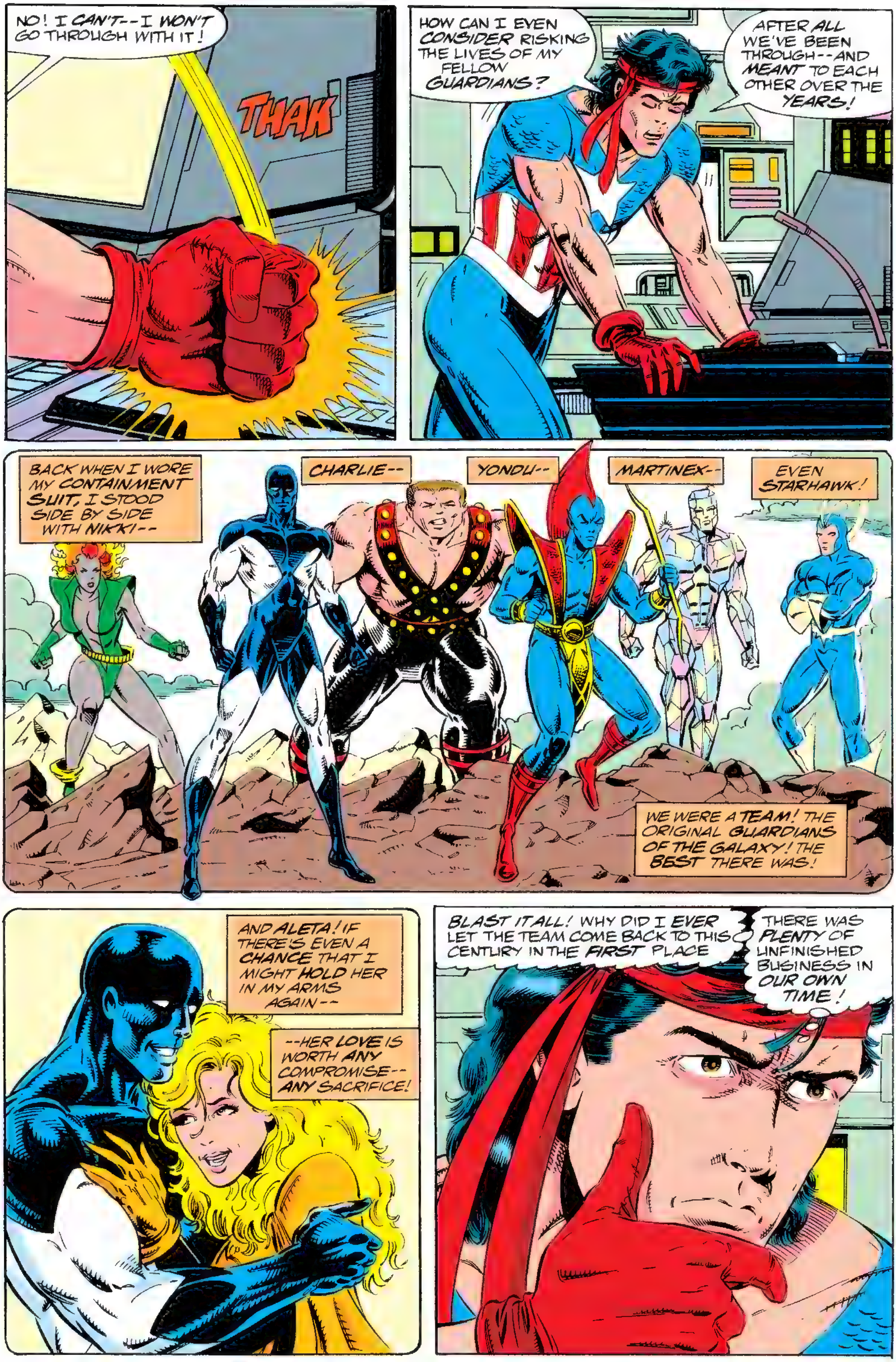

GONE!
STARHAWK'S ...GONE!
GOOD RIDDANCE TO THEM! THEIR BICKERING ALMOST TIPPED OFF THE BADOON TO OUR ARRIVAL!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? ALETA WAS WITH-- OR-- IN HIM TOO!
FORTUNES OF WAR, NIKKI! OUR MISSION HAS PRIORITY! NOW SNAP TO, LADY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CHUNKY... SORRY! LET'S GET ON WITH IT!
HAS ANYONE ELSE NOTICED ALL THE RATS DESERTING THIS SINKING SHIP?
CUT THE COMEDY, TALON! IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR CHEST BESIDES YOUR CHIN, SPIT IT OUT!
NOW, STARHAWK'S GONE! NO GREAT LOSS PERSONALITY-WISE, BUT I THINK WE ALL AGREE HE WAS THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBER OF THE TEAM!
WE'RE DOWN TO THREE G'S, CAPTAIN CREWCUT! SURE, ASTRO WAS A CORNBALL, BUT THAT SHIELD COMMANDED SERIOUS RESPECT!
I'M JUST SAYING IT MIGHT BE WORTH OUR WHILE TO RECONSIDER THE WISDOM OF THIS PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE!

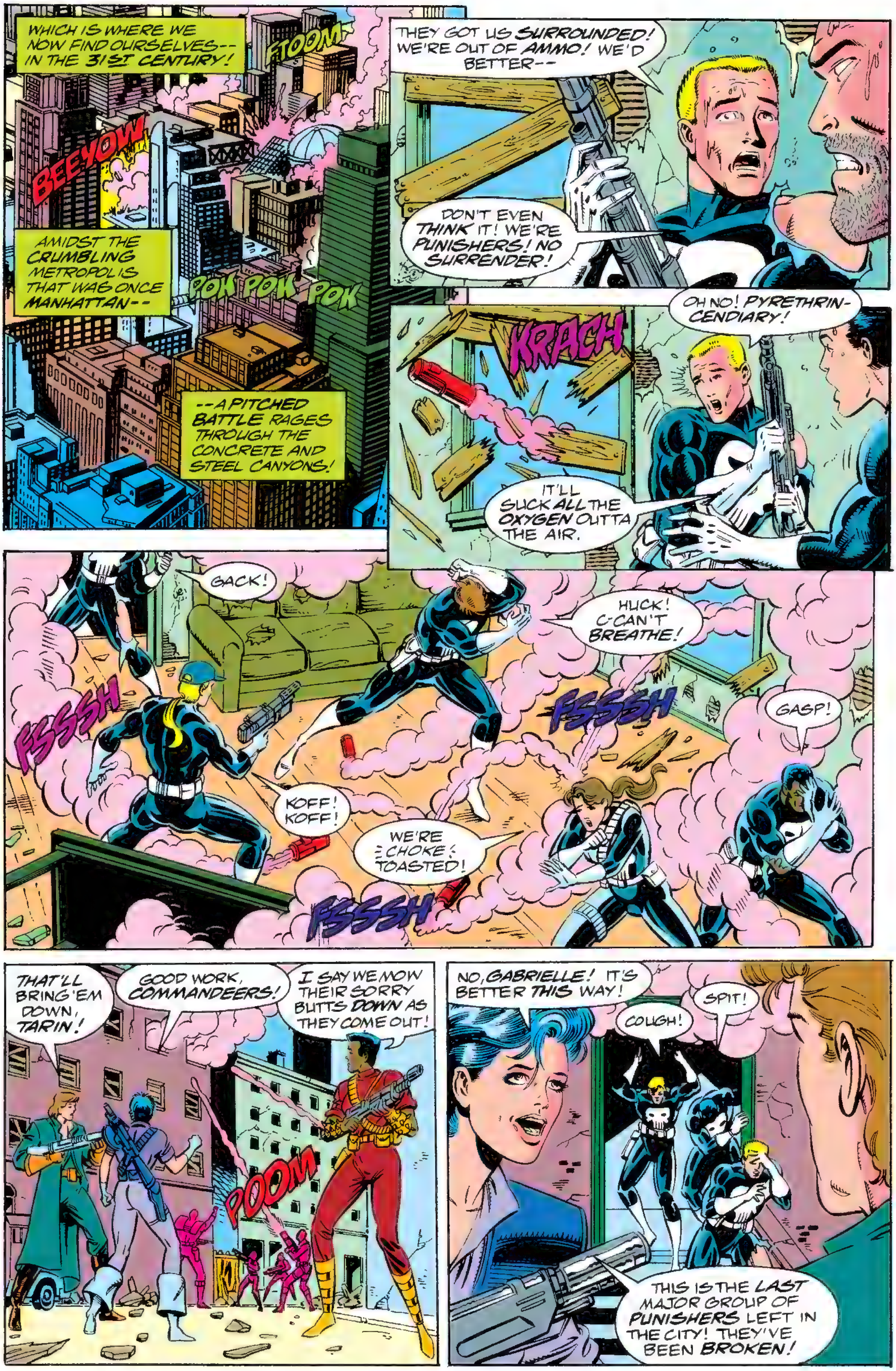

RECONSIDER... THE... WISDOM?!
THE BADOON DIDN'T RECONSIDER THEIR AMBUSH ON MY PLANET, TALON!
"I WAS THERE! I WITNESSED THE RESULTS OF THAT MASSACRE FIRST HAND!
"THEY STRUCK WITHOUT WARNING OR MERCY, BUTCHERING EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THEIR PATH!
"THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST IN A FEW HORRIFIC HOURS!
"MERCURY WAS ALWAYS A BLAZING INFERNO-- BUT ON THAT DAY, IT WAS ONE MASSIVE FUNERAL PYRE!
"NO ONE WAS SPARED...
"NO ONE SURVIVED...
I WAS JUST A KID WHEN IT HAPPENED-- BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT ANY LESS HORRIBLE!
I MANAGED TO AVOID THE BADOON AND GOT AWAY ON MY FAMILY'S SPACECRAFT...
...BUT THE SHIP'S MONITORS GAVE ME A FRONT ROW SEAT! I--SAW-- EVERYTHING!
AND YOU WANT ME TO RECONSIDER PREVENTING THAT HOLOCAUST?
NUH =CHOKE!= NUH--
NEVER!!

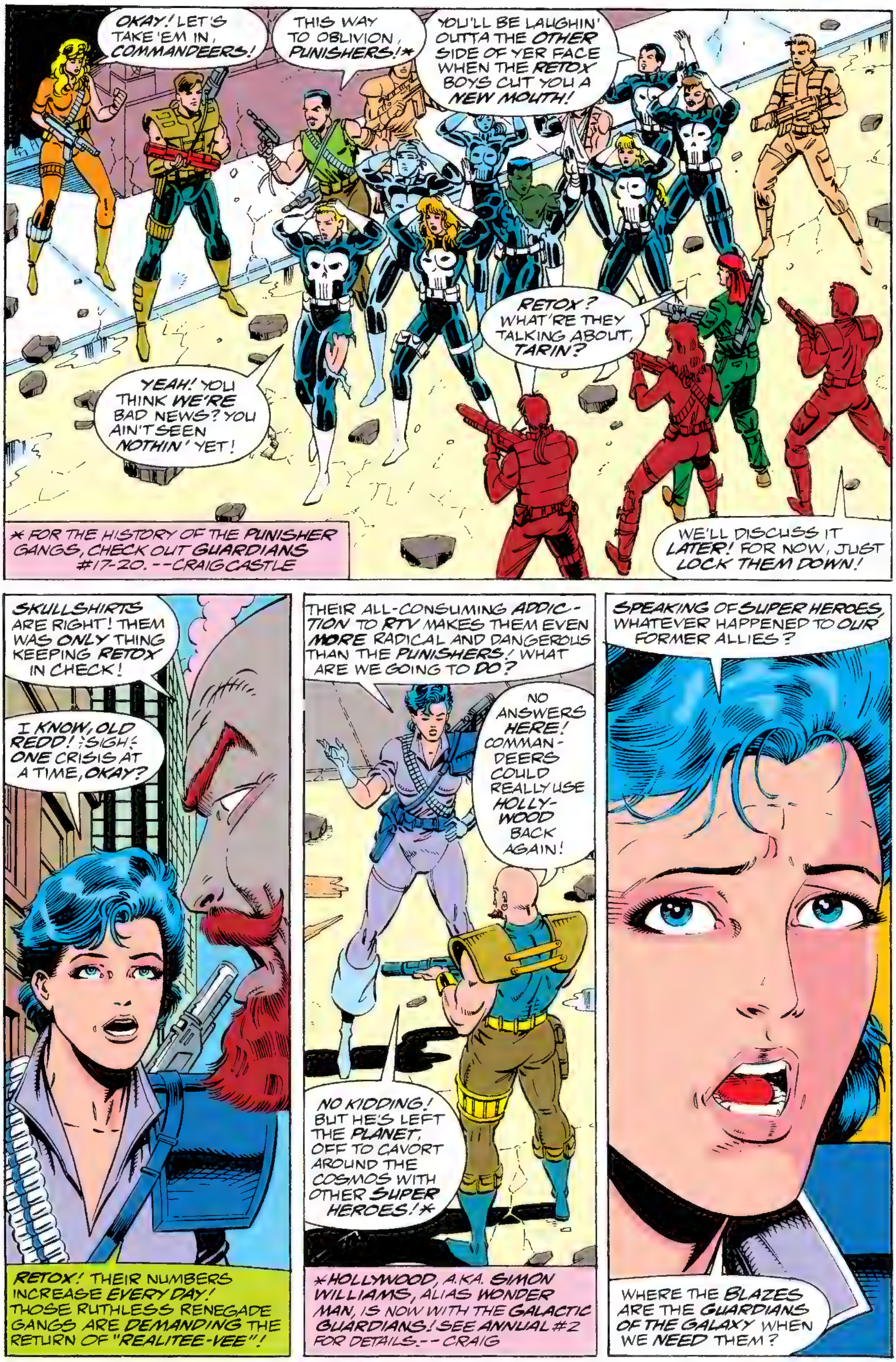

MUH-MY PARENTS! ...SOB!... MY BABY SISTERS! EV-- EVERYONE I LUH-LOVED...SLAUGHTERED! I...CHOKE!...I--
CALM DOWN, NIKKI... IT'S GONNA BE OKAY THIS TIME!
I SWEAR WE'RE NOT GONNA LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, BIG GUY!
I THOUGHT WE INHUMANS HAD IT BAD AT THE LUNAR RESERVATION FORCED LABOR CAMPS!
BUT WHAT YOU JUST DESCRIBED MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL!
I DON'T CARE IF IT IS JUST THE THREE OF US AGAINST A WHOLE SHAGGIN' PLANET!
I SAY WE BRING EVERY WEAPON THIS SHIP HAS TO BEAR ON THOSE BLOODTHIRSTY BADOON AND BLOW THEM TO KINGDOM COME!
AT THAT MOMENT, BEHIND A NEARBY BULKHEAD:
THIS RASH OF RECENT EVENTS FORCES ME TO RETHINK MY NEXT MOVE!
IT MAY BE MORE PRUDENT TO REVEAL MYSELF TO THE GUARDIANS AFTER THEY REACH--

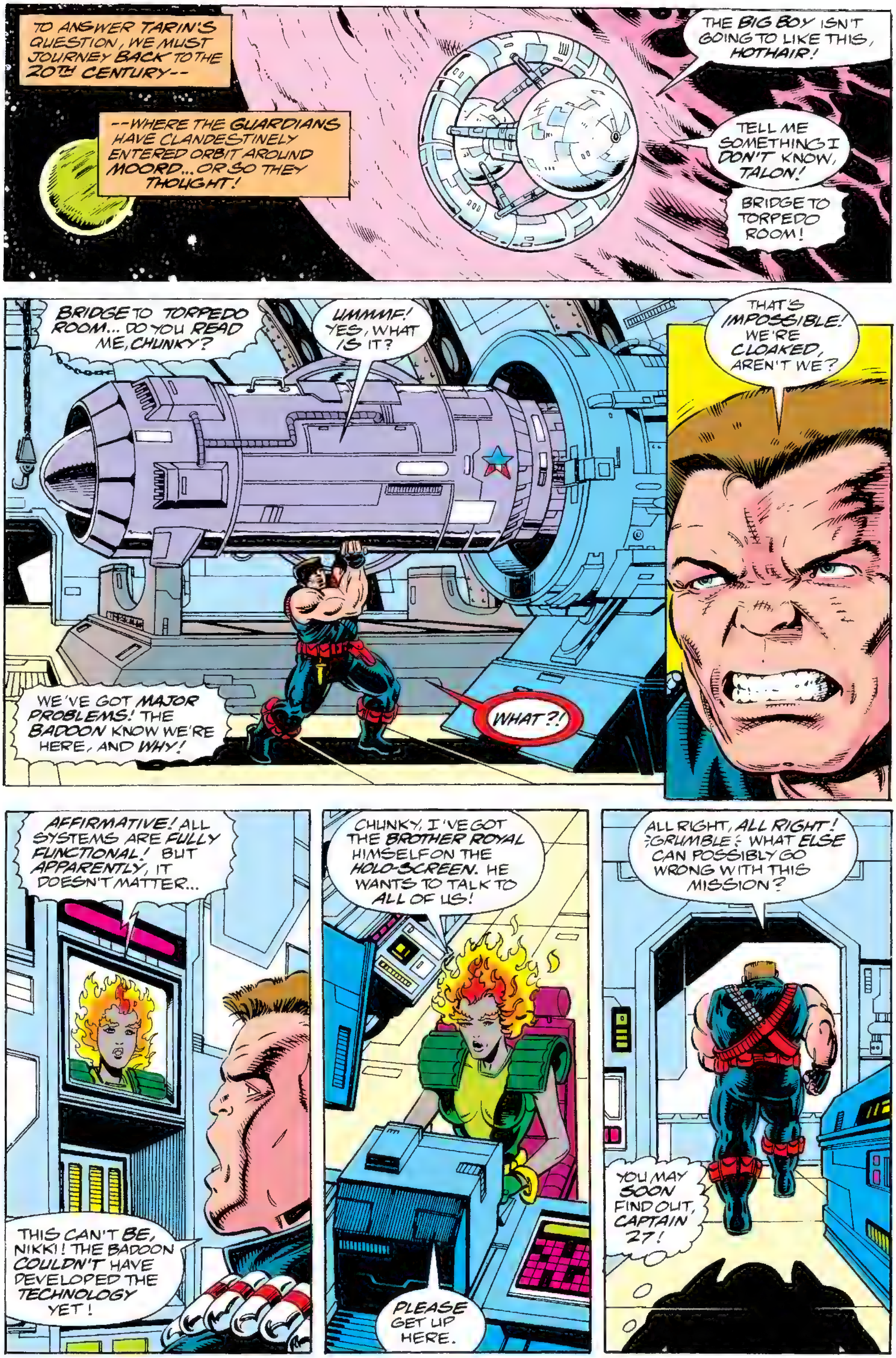

THE PLANET MOORD! HOMEWORLD TO THE MALE MEMBERS OF THE BADOON RACE!
TOWERING ABOVE THE MAIN CITY IS THE PALACE OF THE BROTHER ROYAL, SUPREME RULER OF THE REPTILIAN POPULATION.
DEEP WITHIN THE BUILDING, TWO LOW-LEVEL WARRIORS MONITOR THE RADIO ROOM...
...LITTLE DO THEY SUSPECT WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE ON THIS DAY!
WHAT CAN THIS MEAN? AN OFF-WORLD INCOMING TRANSMISSION!
IT WOULD APPEAR TO ORIGINATE FROM-- EARTH!
WE SHALL SEE WHAT THE TREACHEROUS HUMANS ARE UP TO!
PATCH THE SIGNAL THROUGH!
SNAT
EEEYOWWRR!
ZROOMM

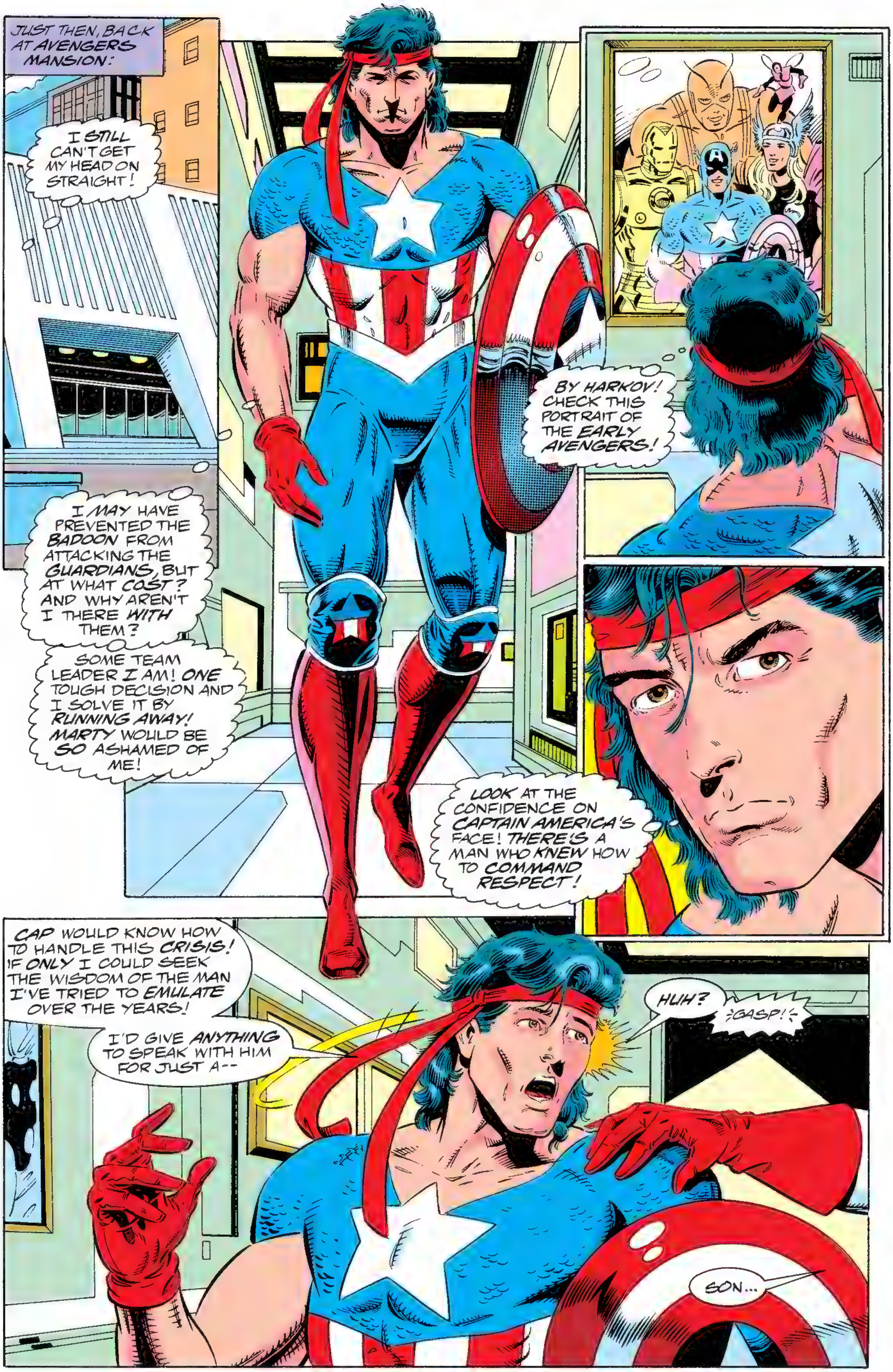

BY THE SWAMP GODS! THAT WAS NO ORDINARY RADIO BEAM--
--IT WAS... ¡GASP!¡ ...ALIVE!
TSSSSSS
I WONDER IF THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR L'MATTO?
INCREDIBLE! HE IS STILL BREATHING!
L'MATTO--L'MATTO! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SPEAK TO ME!
THE BADOON WARRIOR L'MATTO FEELS NO NEED TO SPEAK--
--HE FEELS ONLY THE ENORMOUS SURGE OF POWER COURSING THROUGH HIS BODY!
POWER BEYOND IMAGINING--POWER WITHOUT LIMIT!
AND AS THIS NEW REALITY SINKS IN...
...A UNIVERSE TREMBLES!

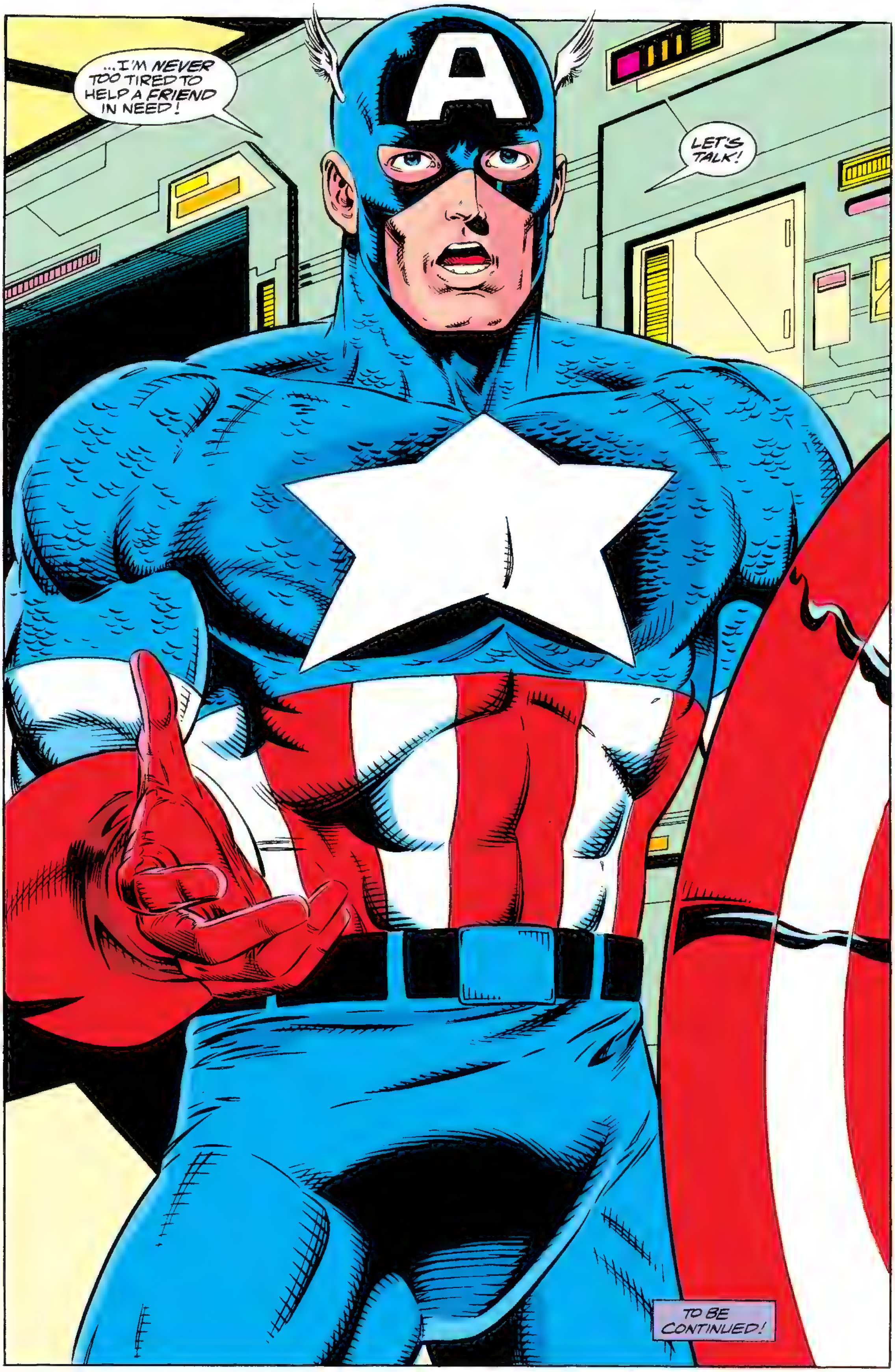

NO! I CAN'T--I WON'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!
THAK
HOW CAN I EVEN CONSIDER RISKING THE LIVES OF MY FELLOW GUARDIANS?
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH--AND MEANT TO EACH OTHER OVER THE YEARS!
BACK WHEN I WORE MY CONTAINMENT SUIT, I STOOD SIDE BY SIDE WITH NIKKI--
CHARLIE--
YONDU--
MARTINEX--
EVEN STARHAWK!
WE WERE A TEAM! THE ORIGINAL GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! THE BEST THERE WAS!
AND ALETA! IF THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE THAT I MIGHT HOLD HER IN MY ARMS AGAIN--
--HER LOVE IS WORTH ANY COMPROMISE--ANY SACRIFICE!
BLAST IT ALL! WHY DID I EVER LET THE TEAM COME BACK TO THIS CENTURY IN THE FIRST PLACE
THERE WAS PLENTY OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN OUR OWN TIME!


WHICH IS WHERE WE NOW FIND OURSELVES-- IN THE 31ST CENTURY!
FTOOM
BEEYOW
AMIDST THE CRUMBLING METROPOLIS THAT WAS ONCE MANHATTAN--
POK POK POK
--A PITCHED BATTLE RAGES THROUGH THE CONCRETE AND STEEL CANYONS!
THEY GOT US SURROUNDED! WE'RE OUT OF AMMO! WE'D BETTER--
DON'T EVEN THINK IT! WE'RE PUNISHERS! NO SURRENDER!
KRACH
OH NO! PYRETHRIN-CENDIARY!
IT'LL SUCK ALL THE OXYGEN OUTTA THE AIR.
GACK!
HUCK! C-CAN'T BREATHE!
FSSSH
FSSSH
GASP!
KOFF! KOFF!
WE'RE CHOKE TOASTED!
FSSSH
THAT'LL BRING 'EM DOWN, TARIN!
GOOD WORK, COMMANDEERS!
I SAY WE MOW THEIR SORRY BUTTS DOWN AS THEY COME OUT!
POOM
NO, GABRIELLE! IT'S BETTER THIS WAY!
COUGH!
SPIT!
THIS IS THE LAST MAJOR GROUP OF PUNISHERS LEFT IN THE CITY! THEY'VE BEEN BROKEN!


OKAY! LET'S TAKE 'EM IN, COMMANDEERS!
THIS WAY TO OBLIVION, PUNISHERS!*
YOU'LL BE LAUGHIN' OUTTA THE OTHER SIDE OF YER FACE WHEN THE RETOX BOYS CUT YOU A NEW MOUTH!
RETOX? WHAT'RE THEY TALKING ABOUT, TARIN?
YEAH! YOU THINK WE'RE BAD NEWS? YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!
*FOR THE HISTORY OF THE PUNISHER GANGS, CHECK OUT GUARDIANS #17-20. --CRAIG CASTLE
WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER! FOR NOW, JUST LOCK THEM DOWN!
SKULLSHIRTS ARE RIGHT! THEM WAS ONLY THING KEEPING RETOX IN CHECK!
I KNOW, OLD REDD! ÷SIGH÷ ONE CRISIS AT A TIME, OKAY?
RETOX! THEIR NUMBERS INCREASE EVERY DAY! THOSE RUTHLESS RENEGADE GANGS ARE DEMANDING THE RETURN OF "REALITEE-VEE"!
THEIR ALL-CONSUMING ADDICTION TO RTV MAKES THEM EVEN MORE RADICAL AND DANGEROUS THAN THE PUNISHERS! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
NO ANSWERS HERE! COMMANDEERS COULD REALLY USE HOLLYWOOD BACK AGAIN!
NO KIDDING! BUT HE'S LEFT THE PLANET, OFF TO CAVORT AROUND THE COSMOS WITH OTHER SUPER HEROES!*
*HOLLYWOOD, A.K.A. SIMON WILLIAMS, ALIAS WONDER MAN, IS NOW WITH THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS! SEE ANNUAL #2 FOR DETAILS.--CRAIG
SPEAKING OF SUPER HEROES, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO OUR FORMER ALLIES?
WHERE THE BLAZES ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY WHEN WE NEED THEM?


TO ANSWER TARIN'S QUESTION, WE MUST JOURNEY BACK TO THE 20TH CENTURY--
--WHERE THE GUARDIANS HAVE CLANDESTINELY ENTERED ORBIT AROUND MOORD...OR SO THEY THOUGHT!
THE BIG BOY ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS, HOTHAIR!
TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW, TALON!
BRIDGE TO TORPEDO ROOM!
BRIDGE TO TORPEDO ROOM... DO YOU READ ME, CHUNKY?
UMMMF! YES, WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE'RE CLOAKED, AREN'T WE?
WE'VE GOT MAJOR PROBLEMS! THE BADOON KNOW WE'RE HERE, AND WHY!
WHAT?!
AFFIRMATIVE! ALL SYSTEMS ARE FULLY FUNCTIONAL! BUT APPARENTLY, IT DOESN'T MATTER...
THIS CAN'T BE, NIKKI! THE BADOON COULDN'T HAVE DEVELOPED THE TECHNOLOGY YET!
CHUNKY, I'VE GOT THE BROTHER ROYAL HIMSELF ON THE HOLO-SCREEN. HE WANTS TO TALK TO ALL OF US!
PLEASE GET UP HERE.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! :GRUMBLE: WHAT ELSE CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG WITH THIS MISSION?
YOU MAY SOON FIND OUT, CAPTAIN 27!


JUST THEN, BACK AT AVENGERS MANSION:
I STILL CAN'T GET MY HEAD ON STRAIGHT!
I MAY HAVE PREVENTED THE BADOON FROM ATTACKING THE GUARDIANS, BUT AT WHAT COST? AND WHY AREN'T I THERE WITH THEM?
SOME TEAM LEADER I AM! ONE TOUGH DECISION AND I SOLVE IT BY RUNNING AWAY! MARTY WOULD BE SO ASHAMED OF ME!
BY HARKOV! CHECK THIS PORTRAIT OF THE EARLY AVENGERS!
LOOK AT THE CONFIDENCE ON CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FACE! THERE'S A MAN WHO KNEW HOW TO COMMAND RESPECT!
CAP WOULD KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS CRISIS! IF ONLY I COULD SEEK THE WISDOM OF THE MAN I'VE TRIED TO EMULATE OVER THE YEARS!
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO SPEAK WITH HIM FOR JUST A--
HUH?
GASP!
SON...


...I'M NEVER TOO TIRED TO HELP A FRIEND IN NEED!
LET'S TALK!
TO BE CONTINUED!

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COULD THIS BE THE END OF THE
GUARDIANS
™
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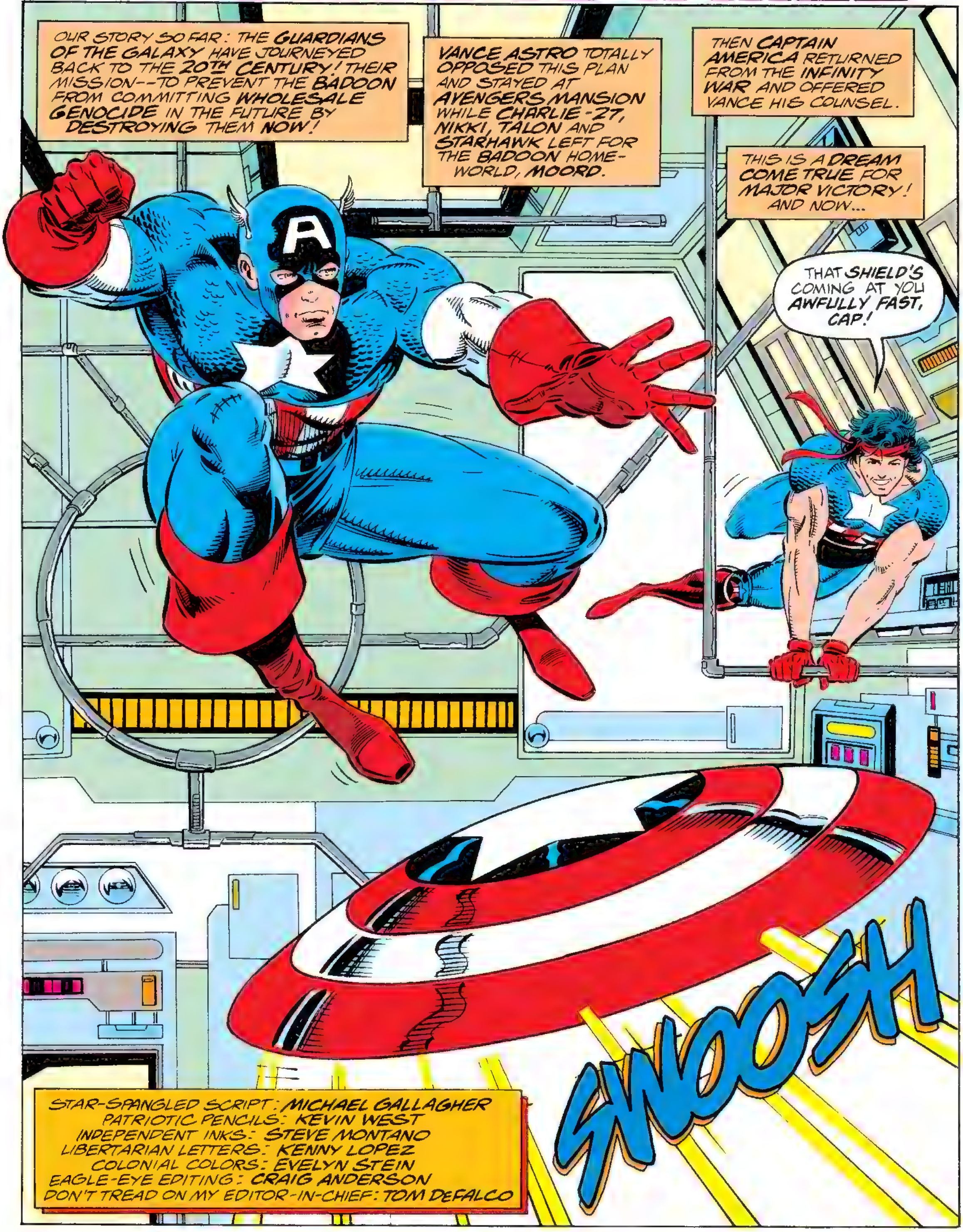
WEST + MONTANO
BEYOND VIDEO... THE NEW Dragon Quest GAME! (Announcements Inside)

[redacted]

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

PRELUDE TO A KILL


OUR STORY SO FAR: THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HAVE JOURNEYED BACK TO THE 20TH CENTURY! THEIR MISSION--TO PREVENT THE BADOON FROM COMMITTING WHOLESALE GENOCIDE IN THE FUTURE BY DESTROYING THEM NOW!
VANCE ASTRO TOTALLY OPPOSED THIS PLAN AND STAYED AT AVENGERS MANSION WHILE CHARLIE-27, NIKKI, TALON AND STARHAWK LEFT FOR THE BADOON HOMEWORLD, MOORD.
THEN CAPTAIN AMERICA RETURNED FROM THE INFINITY WAR AND OFFERED VANCE HIS COUNSEL.
THIS IS A DREAM COME TRUE FOR MAJOR VICTORY! AND NOW...
THAT SHIELD'S COMING AT YOU AWFULLY FAST, CAP!
SWOOSH
STAR-SPANGLED SCRIPT: MICHAEL GALLAGHER
PATRIOTIC PENCILS: KEVIN WEST
INDEPENDENT INKS: STEVE MONTANO
LIBERTARIAN LETTERS: KENNY LOPEZ
COLONIAL COLORS: EVELYN STEIN
EAGLE-EYE EDITING: CRAIG ANDERSON
DON'T TREAD ON MY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: TOM DEFALCO

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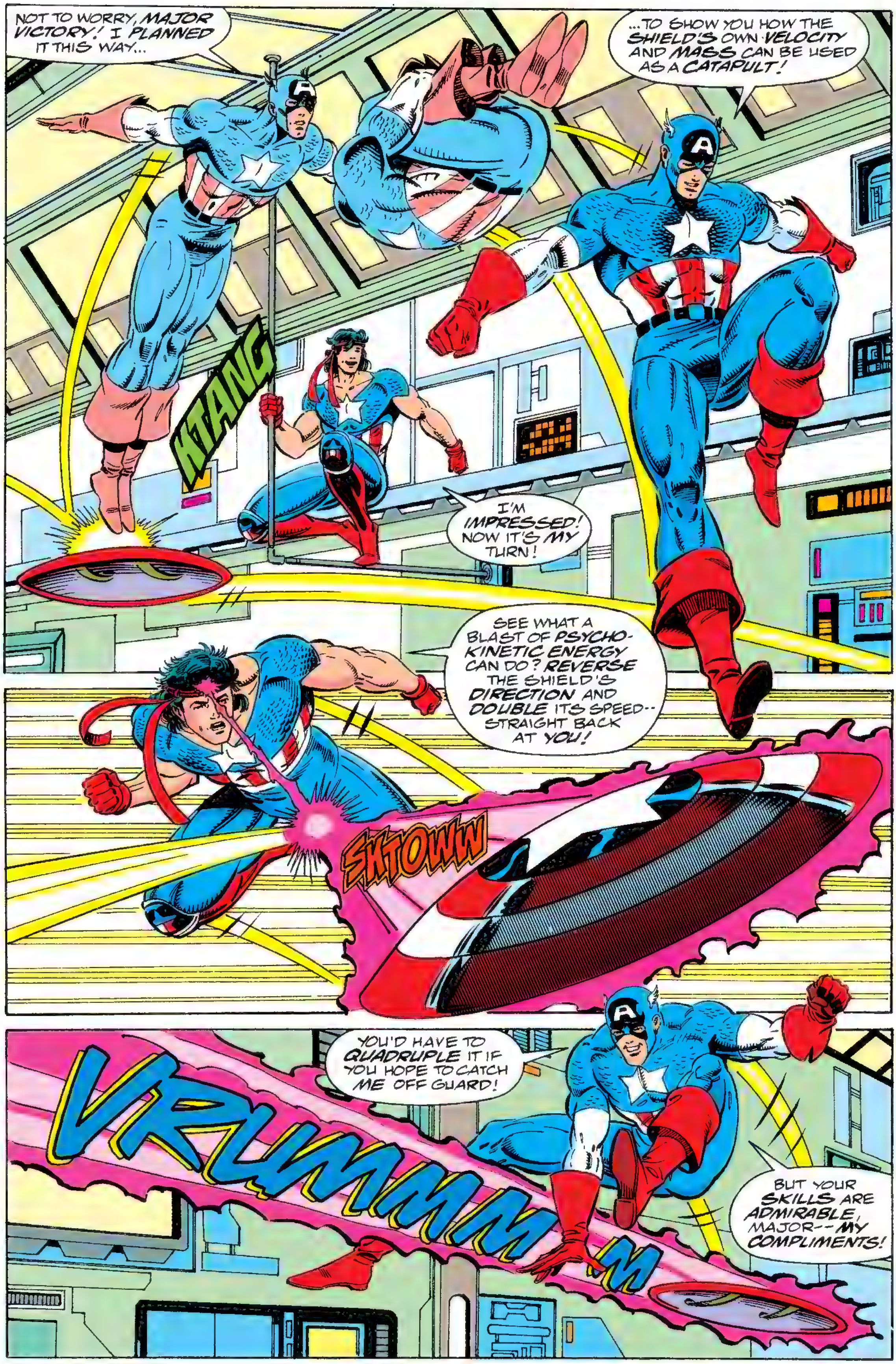
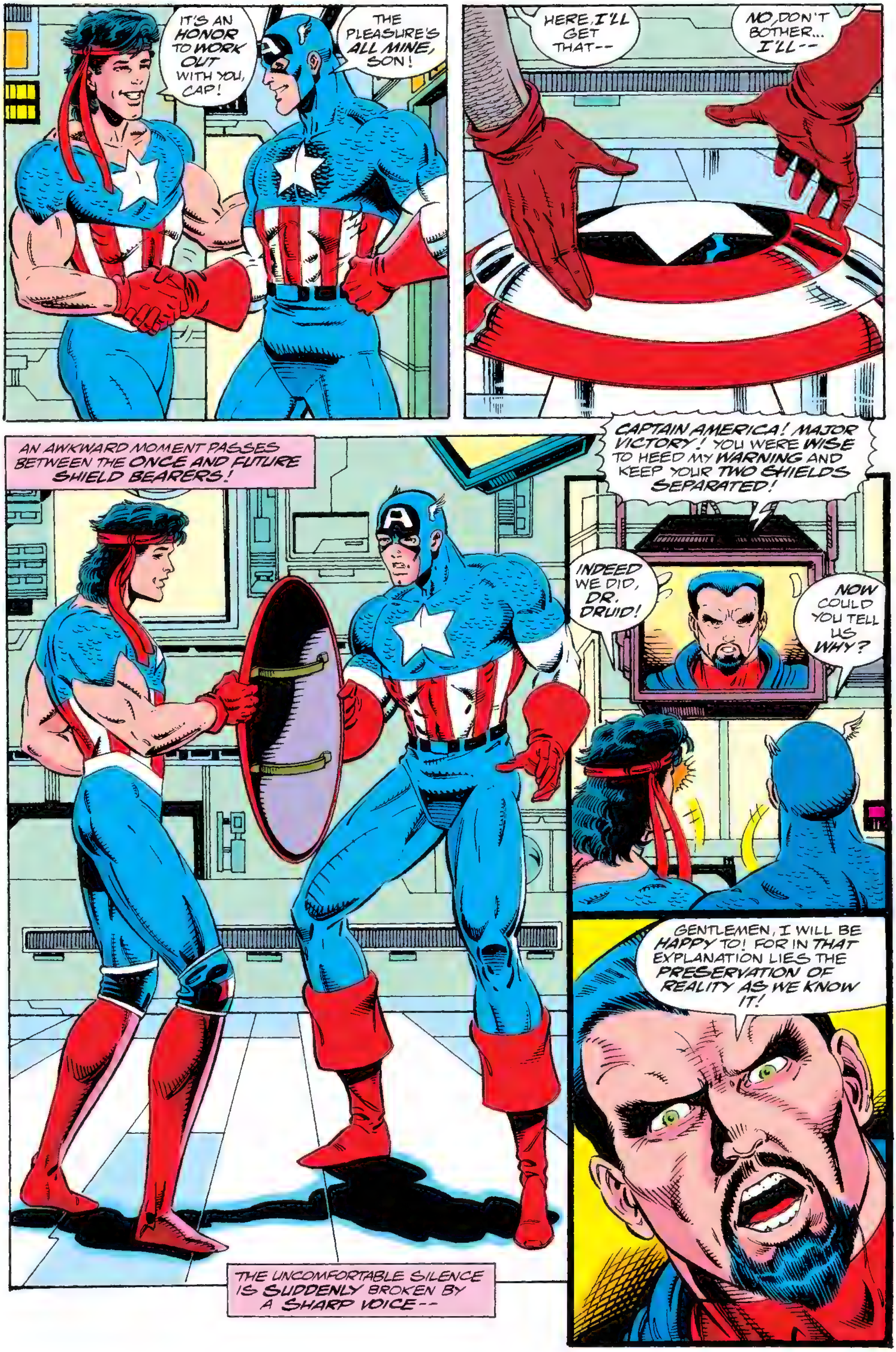
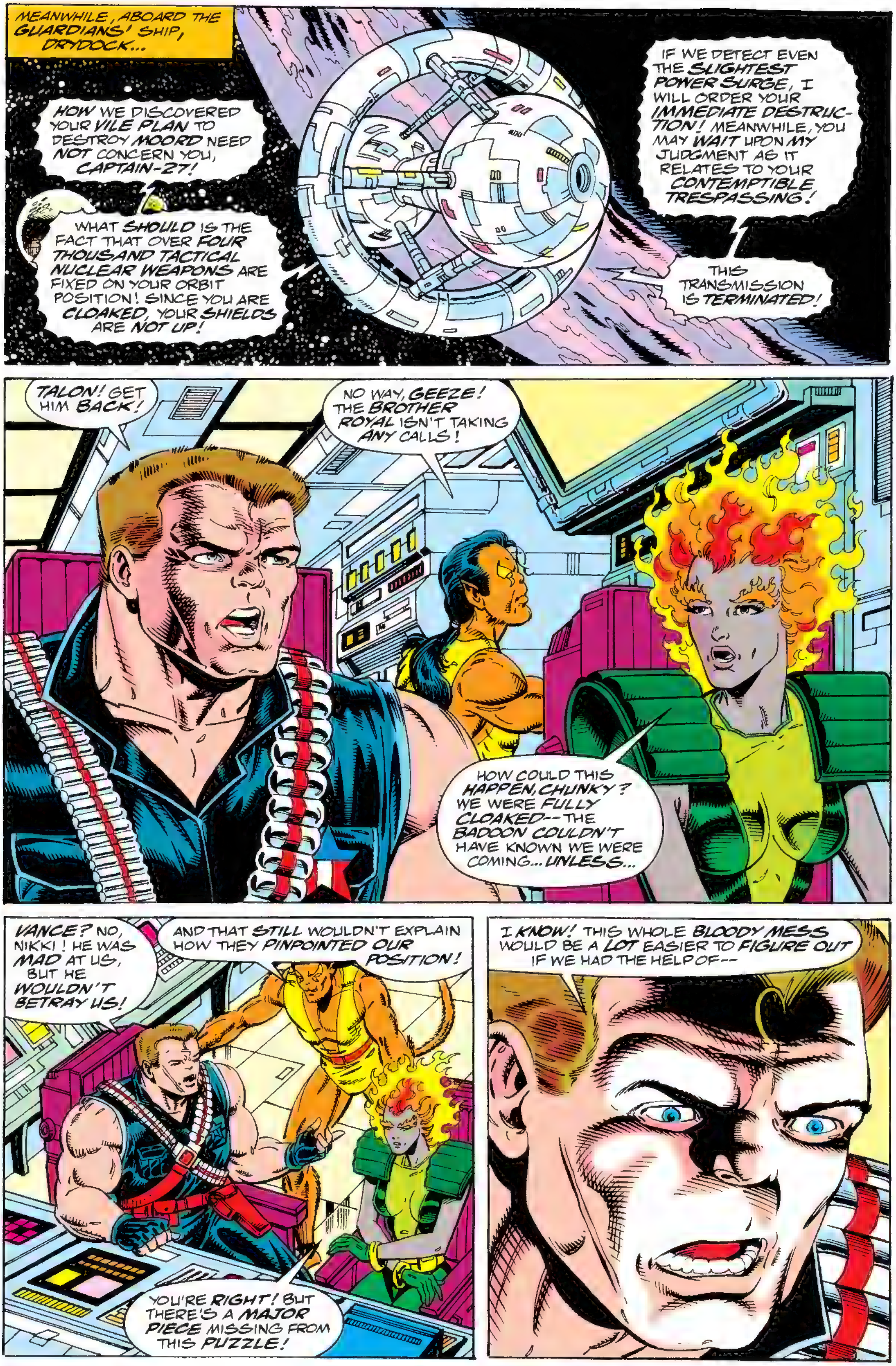
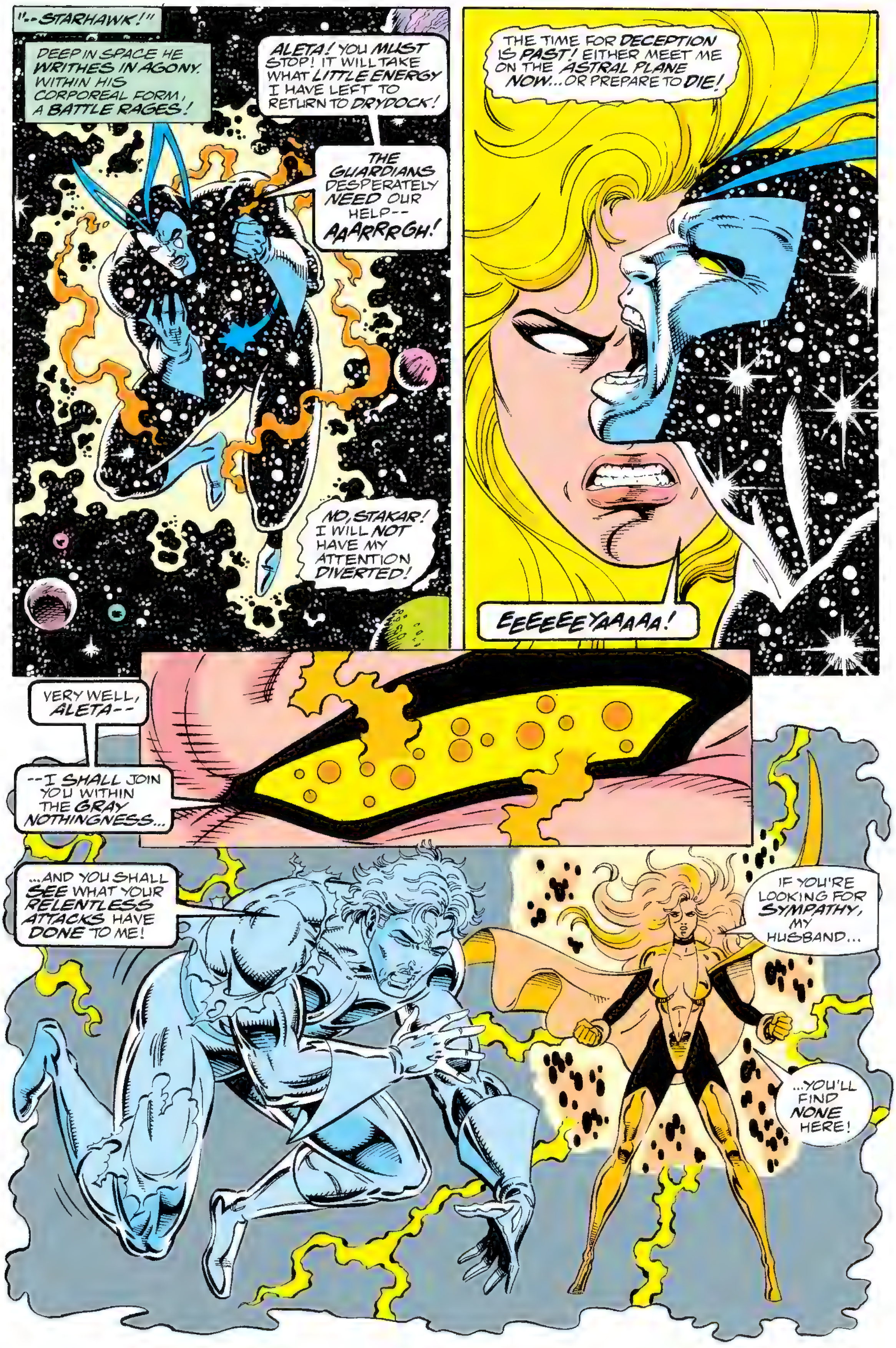
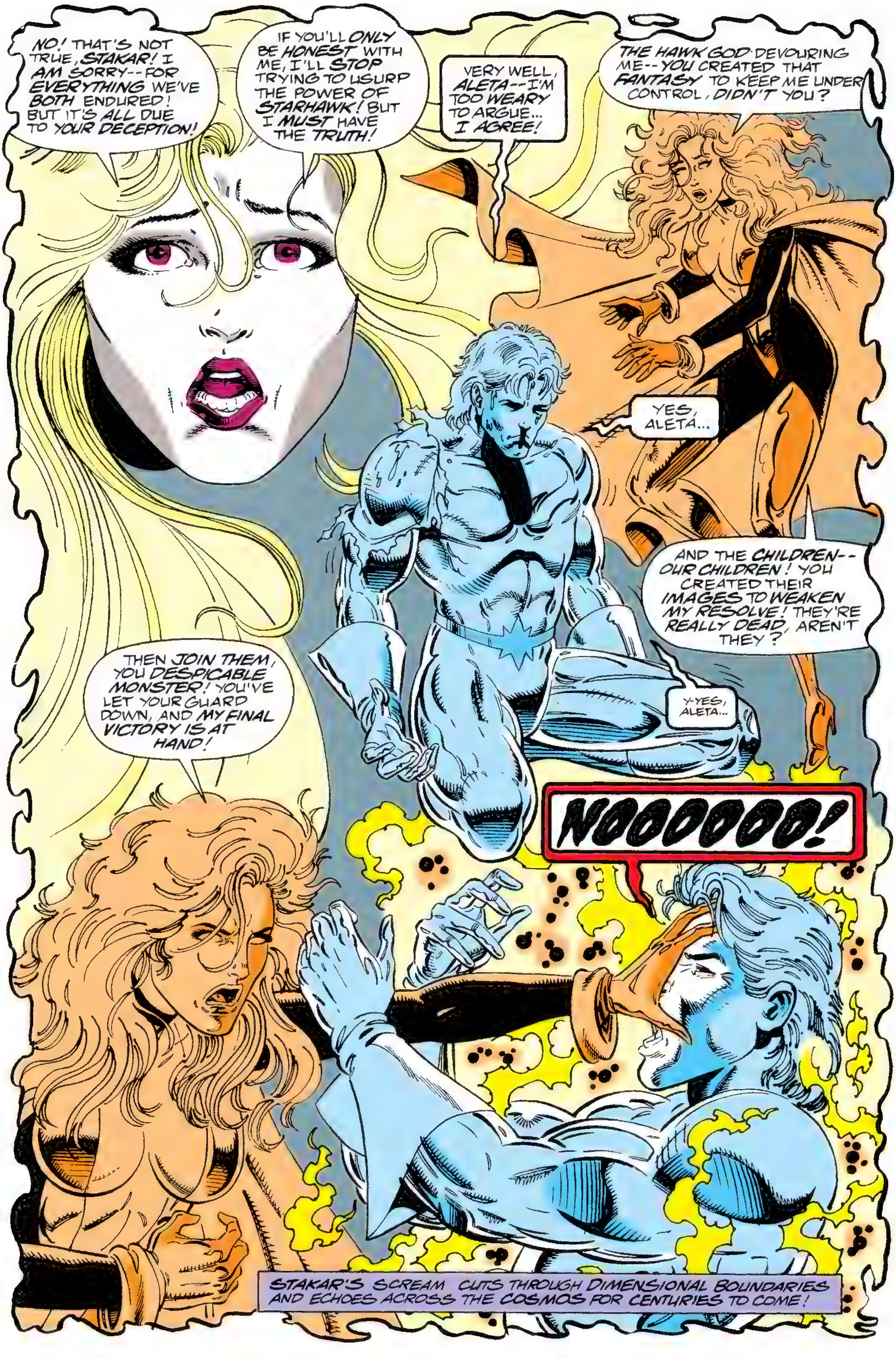
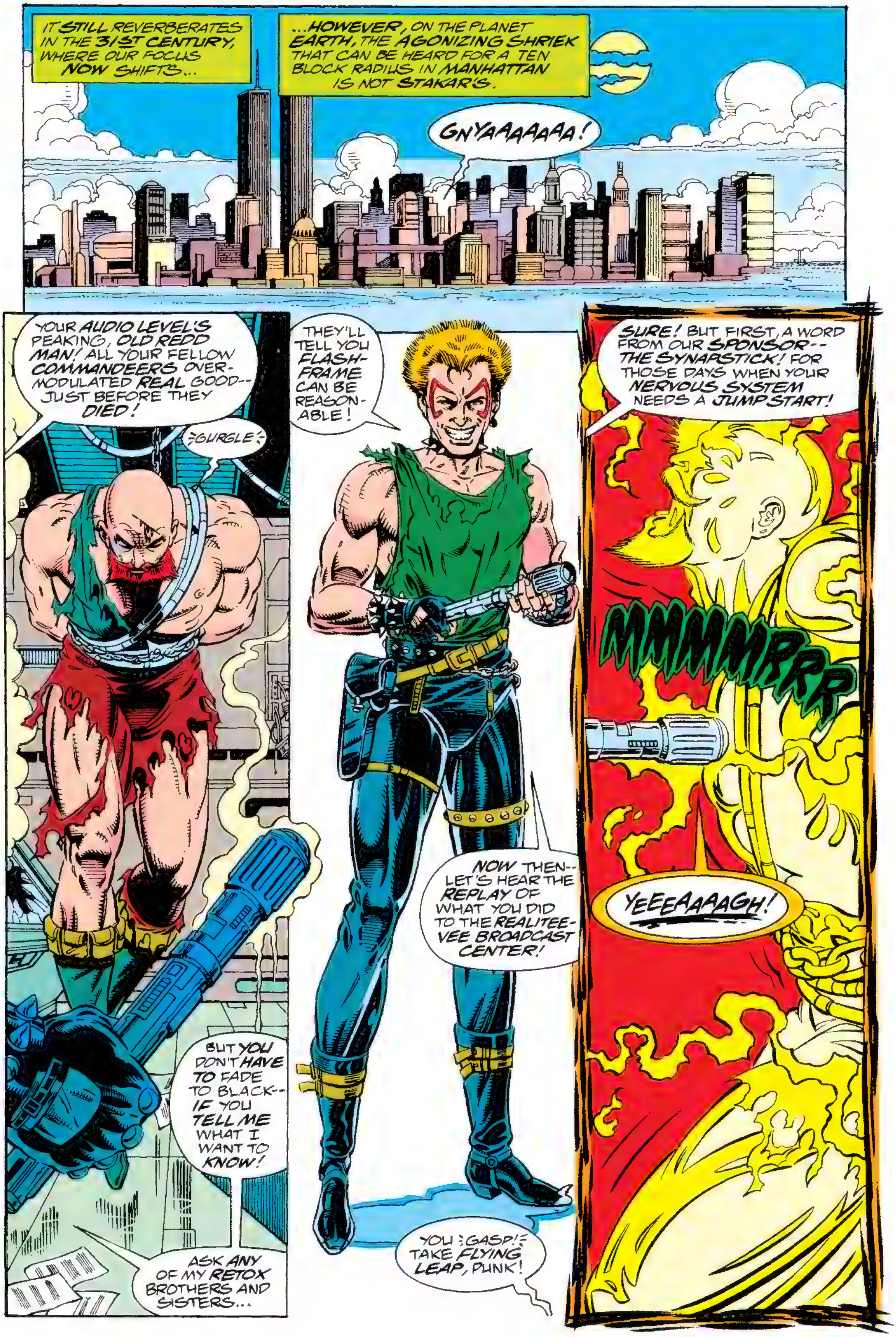

NOT TO WORRY, MAJOR VICTORY! I PLANNED IT THIS WAY...
...TO SHOW YOU HOW THE SHIELD'S OWN VELOCITY AND MASS CAN BE USED AS A CATAPULT!
KTANG
I'M IMPRESSED! NOW IT'S MY TURN!
SEE WHAT A BLAST OF PSYCHO-KINETIC ENERGY CAN DO? REVERSE THE SHIELD'S DIRECTION AND DOUBLE ITS SPEED-- STRAIGHT BACK AT YOU!
SKTOWW
VRUMMMMMM
YOU'D HAVE TO QUADRUPLE IT IF YOU HOPE TO CATCH ME OFF GUARD!
BUT YOUR SKILLS ARE ADMIRABLE, MAJOR-- MY COMPLIMENTS!

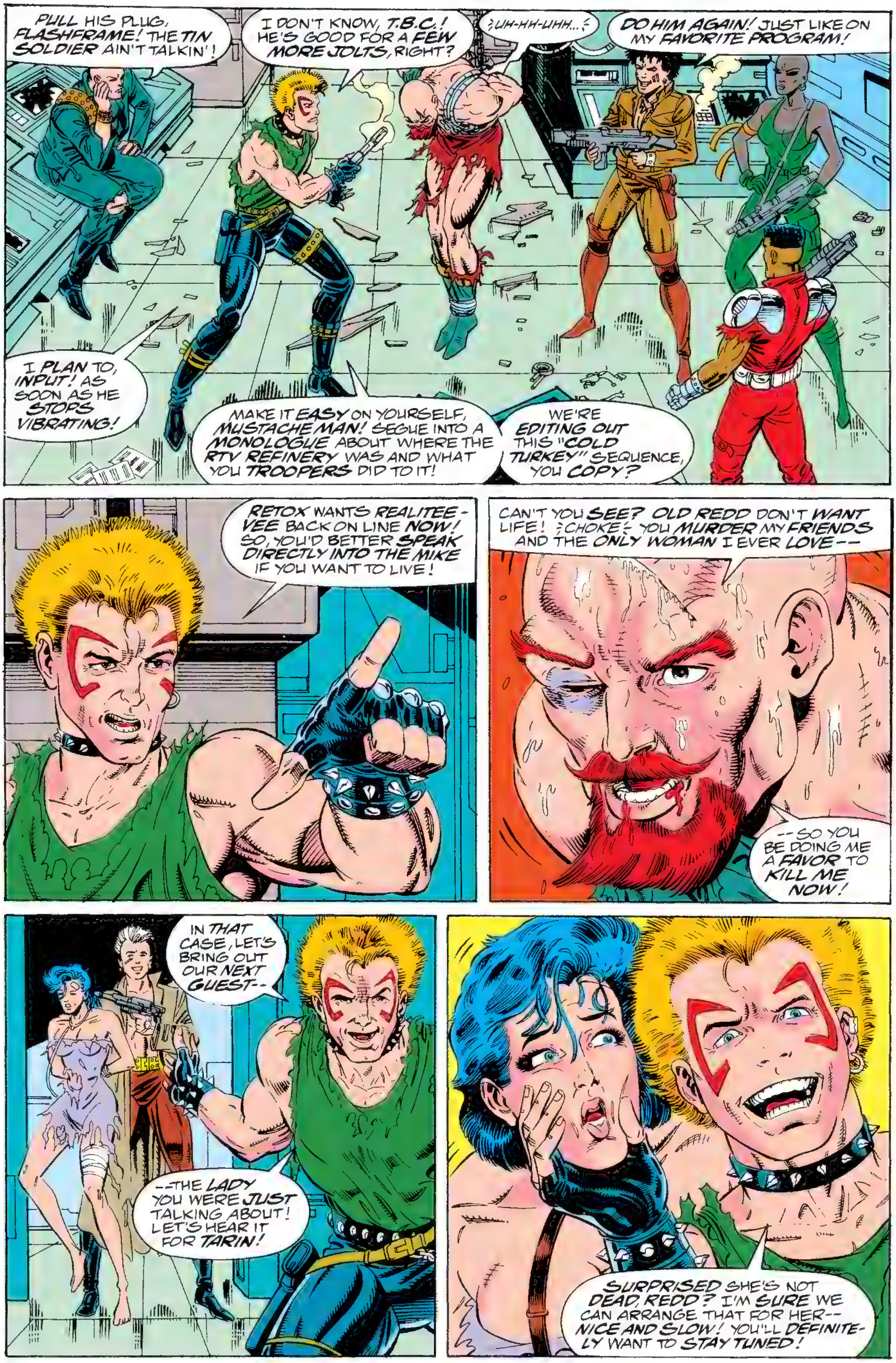

IT'S AN HONOR TO WORK OUT WITH YOU, CAP!
THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, SON!
HERE, I'LL GET THAT--
NO, DON'T BOTHER... I'LL--
AN AWKWARD MOMENT PASSES BETWEEN THE ONCE AND FUTURE SHIELD BEARERS!
THE UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE IS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY A SHARP VOICE--
CAPTAIN AMERICA! MAJOR VICTORY! YOU WERE WISE TO HEED MY WARNING AND KEEP YOUR TWO SHIELDS SEPARATED!
INDEED WE DID, DR. DRUID!
NOW COULD YOU TELL US WHY?
GENTLEMEN, I WILL BE HAPPY TO! FOR IN THAT EXPLANATION LIES THE PRESERVATION OF REALITY AS WE KNOW IT!

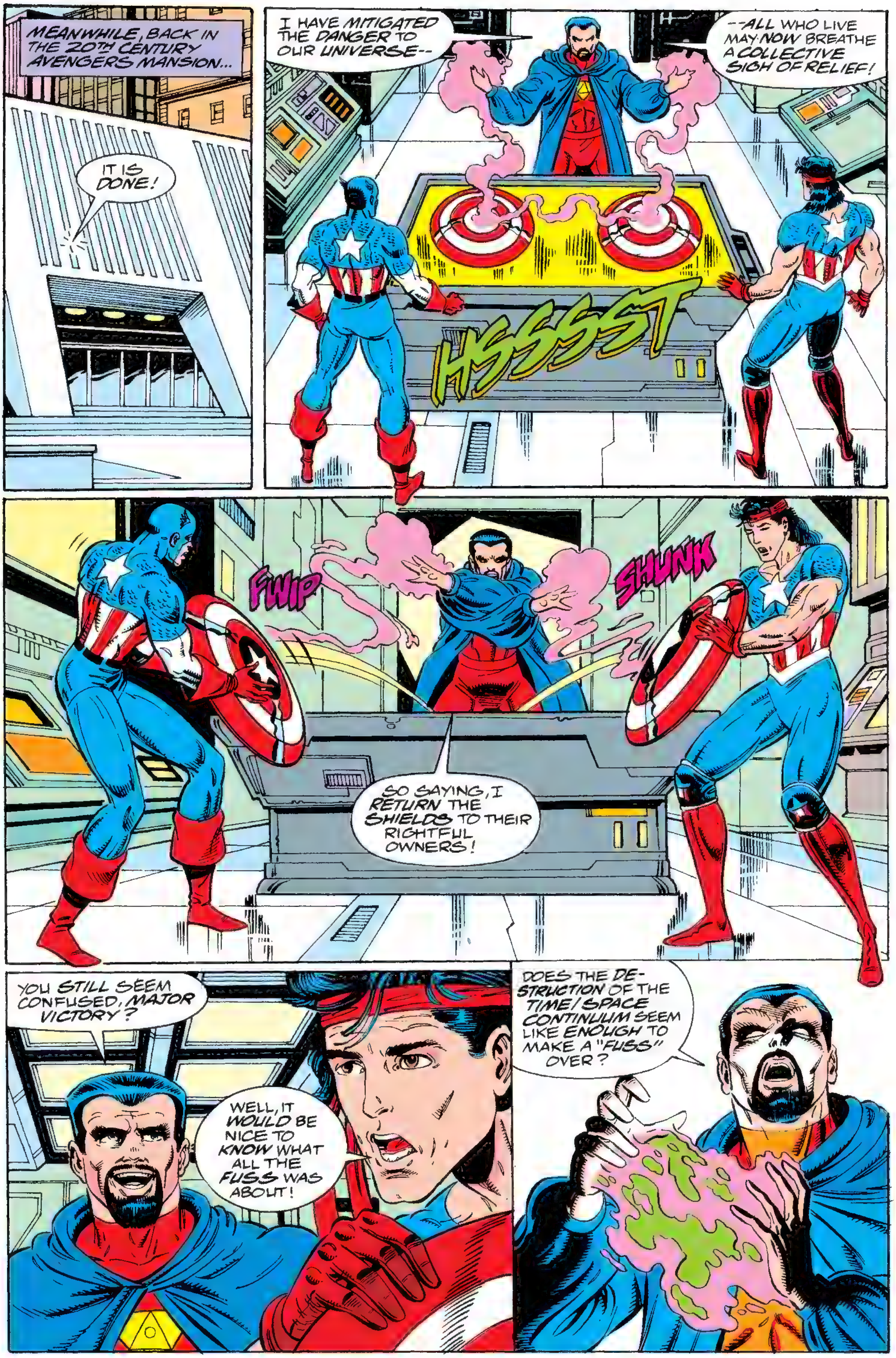

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE GUARDIANS' SHIP, DRYDOCK...
HOW WE DISCOVERED YOUR VILE PLAN TO DESTROY MOORD NEED NOT CONCERN YOU, CAPTAIN-27!
WHAT SHOULD IS THE FACT THAT OVER FOUR THOUSAND TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE FIXED ON YOUR ORBIT POSITION! SINCE YOU ARE CLOAKED, YOUR SHIELDS ARE NOT UP!
IF WE DETECT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST POWER SURGE, I WILL ORDER YOUR IMMEDIATE DESTRUCTION! MEANWHILE, YOU MAY WAIT UPON MY JUDGMENT AS IT RELATES TO YOUR CONTEMPTIBLE TRESPASSING!
THIS TRANSMISSION IS TERMINATED!
TALON! GET HIM BACK!
NO WAY, GEEZE! THE BROTHER ROYAL ISN'T TAKING ANY CALLS!
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN, CHUNKY? WE WERE FULLY CLOAKED-- THE BADOON COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WE WERE COMING... UNLESS...
VANCE? NO, NIKKI! HE WAS MAD AT US, BUT HE WOULDN'T BETRAY US!
AND THAT STILL WOULDN'T EXPLAIN HOW THEY PINPOINTED OUR POSITION!
YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT THERE'S A MAJOR PIECE MISSING FROM THIS PUZZLE!
I KNOW! THIS WHOLE BLOODY MESS WOULD BE A LOT EASIER TO FIGURE OUT IF WE HAD THE HELP OF--

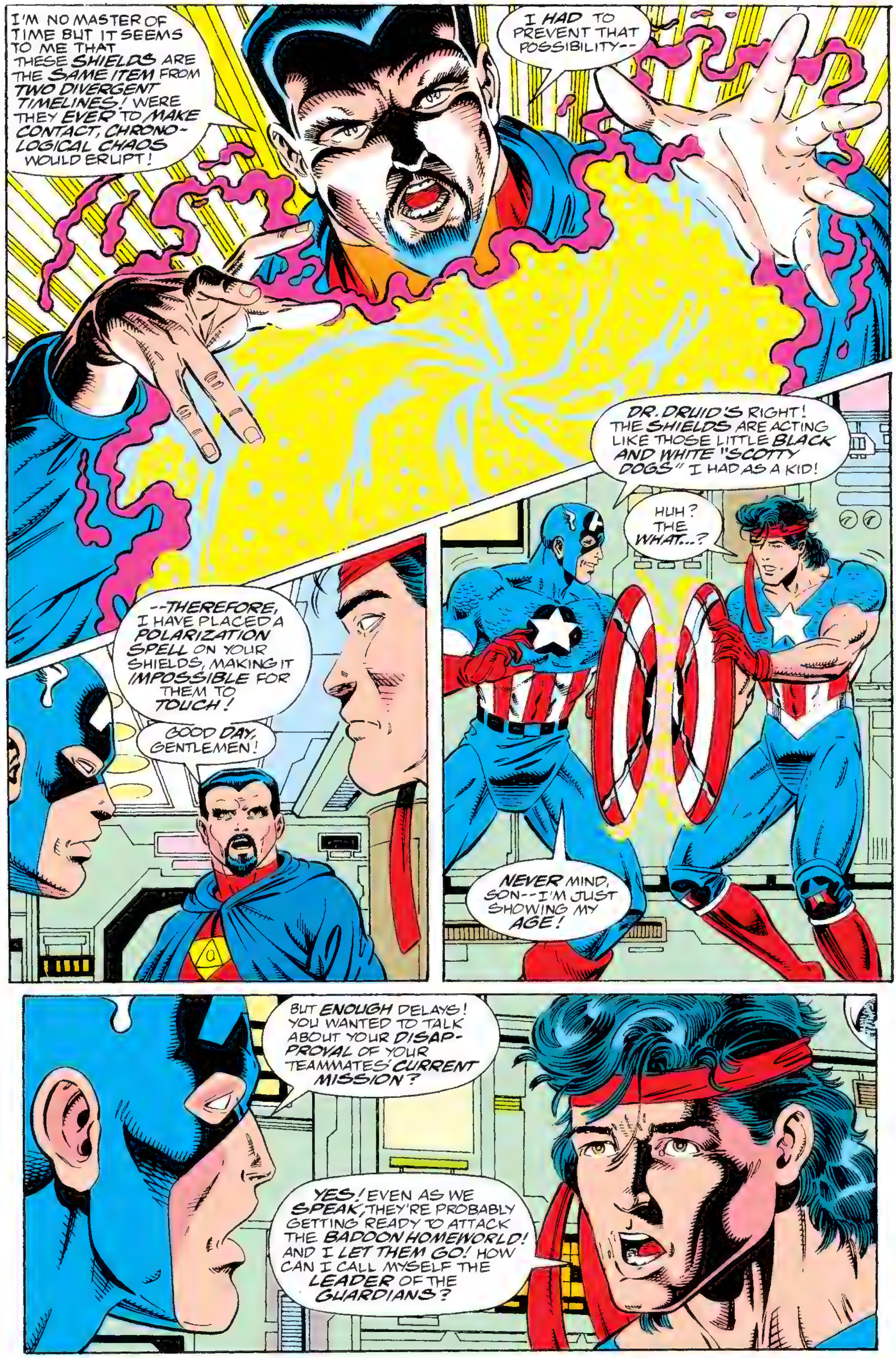

"--STARHAWK!"
DEEP IN SPACE HE WRITHES IN AGONY. WITHIN HIS CORPOREAL FORM, A BATTLE RAGES!
ALETA! YOU MUST STOP! IT WILL TAKE WHAT LITTLE ENERGY I HAVE LEFT TO RETURN TO DRYDOCK!
THE GUARDIANS DESPERATELY NEED OUR HELP-- AAARRRGH!
NO, STAKAR! I WILL NOT HAVE MY ATTENTION DIVERTED!
THE TIME FOR DECEPTION IS PAST! EITHER MEET ME ON THE ASTRAL PLANE NOW...OR PREPARE TO DIE!
EEEEEEYAAAAA!
VERY WELL, ALETA--
--I SHALL JOIN YOU WITHIN THE GRAY NOTHINGNESS...
...AND YOU SHALL SEE WHAT YOUR RELENTLESS ATTACKS HAVE DONE TO ME!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SYMPATHY, MY HUSBAND...
...YOU'LL FIND NONE HERE!

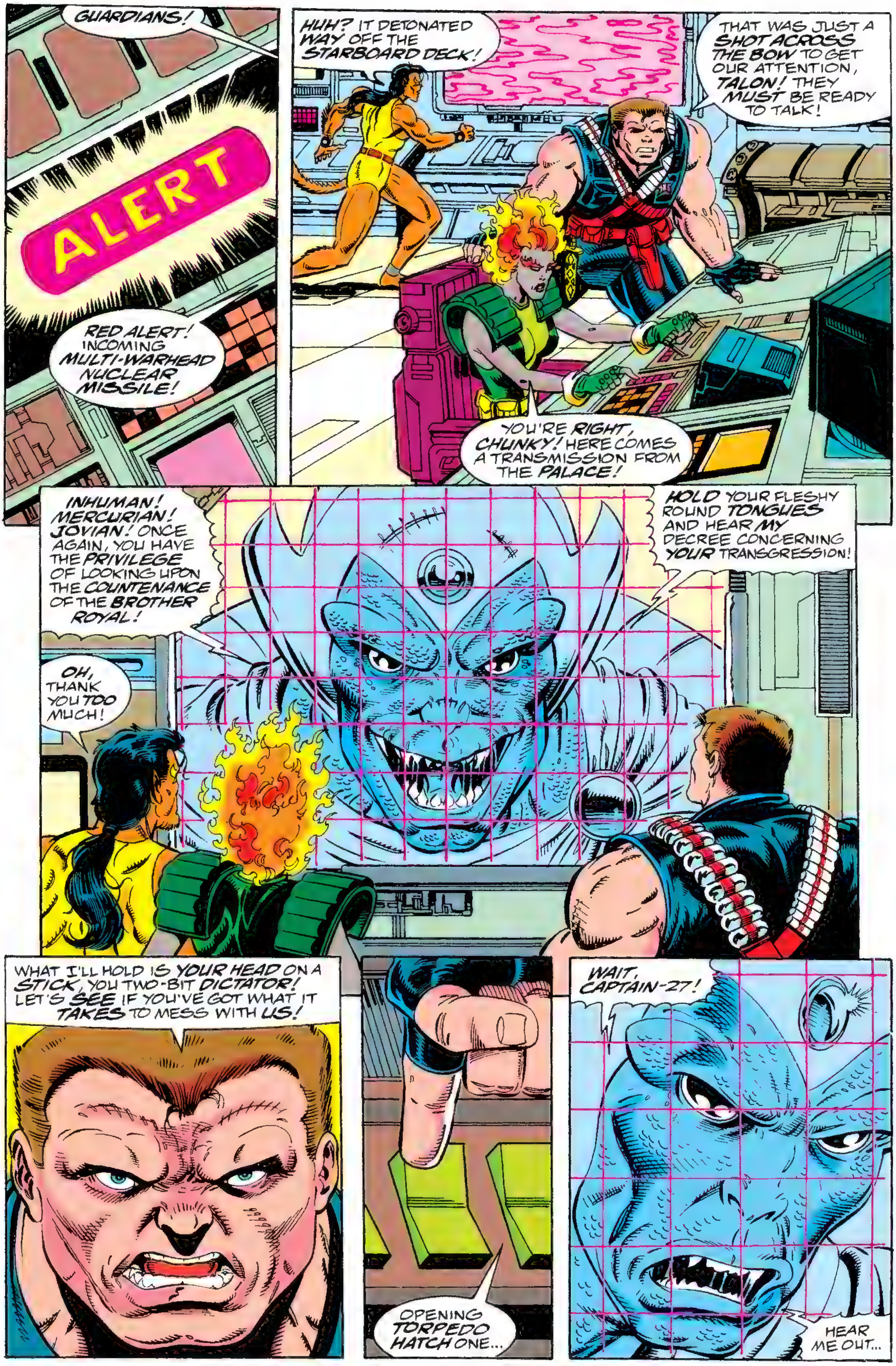

NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE, STAKAR! I AM SORRY--FOR EVERYTHING WE'VE BOTH ENDURED! BUT IT'S ALL DUE TO YOUR DECEPTION!
IF YOU'LL ONLY BE HONEST WITH ME, I'LL STOP TRYING TO USURP THE POWER OF STARHAWK! BUT I MUST HAVE THE TRUTH!
VERY WELL, ALETA--I'M TOO WEARY TO ARGUE... I AGREE!
THE HAWK GOD DEVOURING ME--YOU CREATED THAT FANTASY TO KEEP ME UNDER CONTROL, DIDN'T YOU?
YES, ALETA...
AND THE CHILDREN--OUR CHILDREN! YOU CREATED THEIR IMAGES TO WEAKEN MY RESOLVE! THEY'RE REALLY DEAD, AREN'T THEY?
Y-YES, ALETA...
THEN JOIN THEM, YOU DESPICABLE MONSTER! YOU'VE LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, AND MY FINAL VICTORY IS AT HAND!
NOOOOOO!
STAKAR'S SCREAM CUTS THROUGH DIMENSIONAL BOUNDARIES AND ECHOES ACROSS THE COSMOS FOR CENTURIES TO COME!

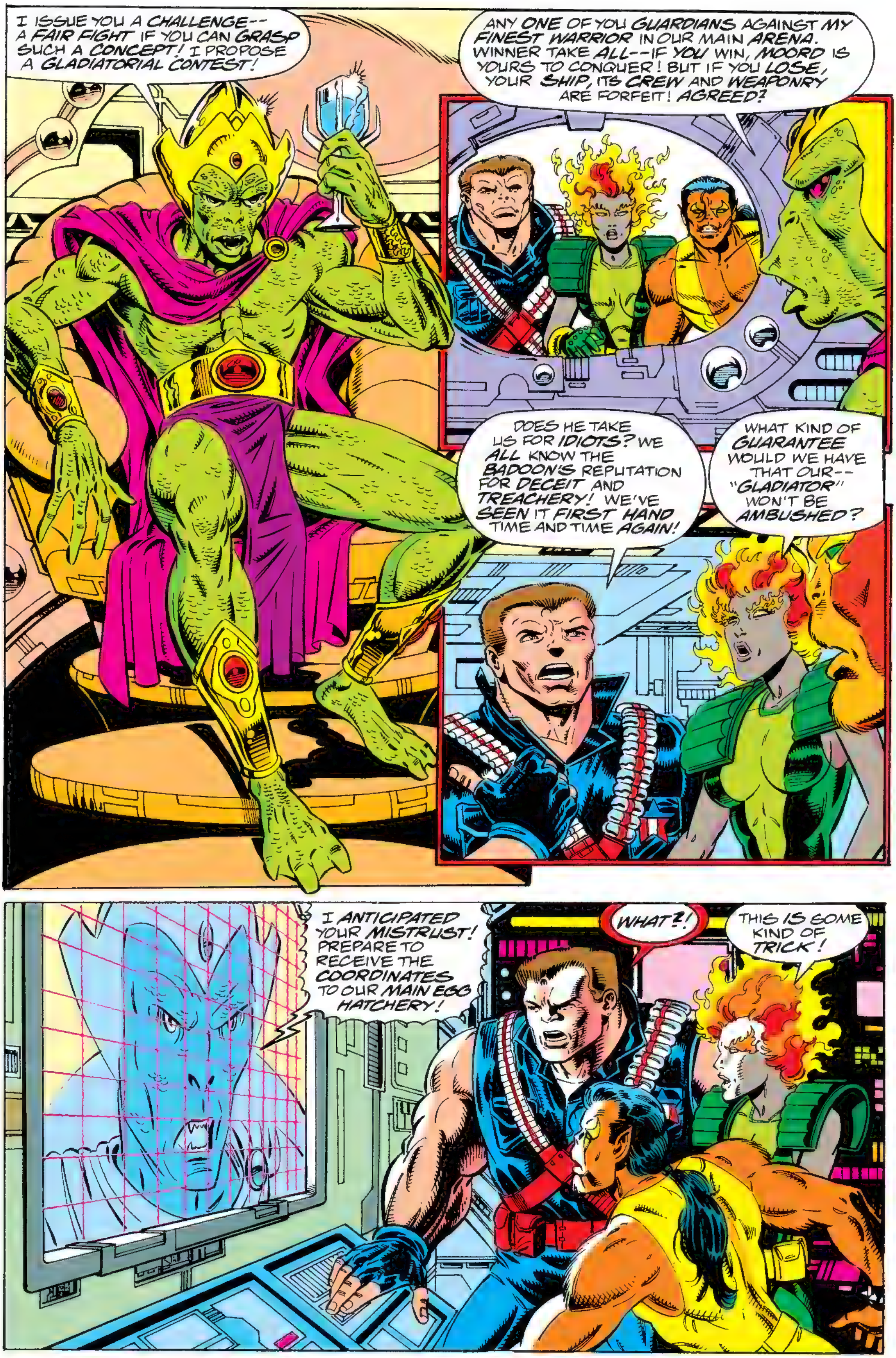

IT STILL REVERBERATES IN THE 31ST CENTURY, WHERE OUR FOCUS NOW SHIFTS...
...HOWEVER, ON THE PLANET EARTH, THE AGONIZING SHRIEK THAT CAN BE HEARD FOR A TEN BLOCK RADIUS IN MANHATTAN IS NOT STAKAR'S.
GNYAAAAAAA!
YOUR AUDIO LEVEL'S PEAKING, OLD REDD MAN! ALL YOUR FELLOW COMMANDEERS OVER-MODULATED REAL GOOD-- JUST BEFORE THEY DIED!
:GURGLE:
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FADE TO BLACK-- IF YOU TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
ASK ANY OF MY RETOX BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
THEY'LL TELL YOU FLASH-FRAME CAN BE REASON-ABLE!
NOW THEN-- LET'S HEAR THE REPLAY OF WHAT YOU DID TO THE REALITEE-VEE BROADCAST CENTER!
YOU :GASP!: TAKE FLYING LEAP, PUNK!
SURE! BUT FIRST, A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR-- THE SYNAPSTICK! FOR THOSE DAYS WHEN YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM NEEDS A JUMP START!
MMMMMRRR
YEEEAAAAGH!

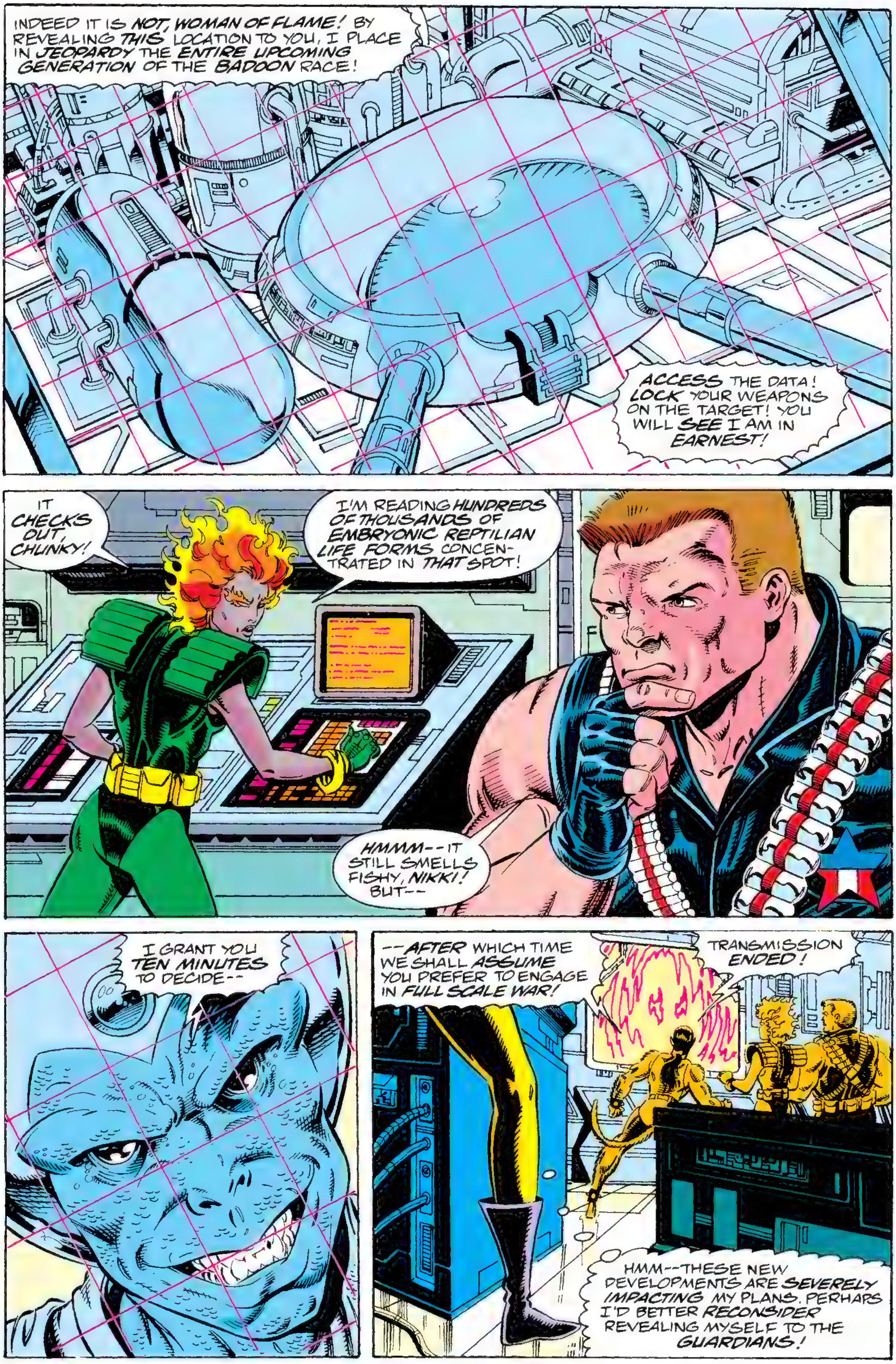

PULL HIS PLUG, FLASHFRAME! THE TIN SOLDIER AIN'T TALKIN'!
I DON'T KNOW, T.B.C.! HE'S GOOD FOR A FEW MORE JOLTS, RIGHT?
‹UH-HH-UHH...›
DO HIM AGAIN! JUST LIKE ON MY FAVORITE PROGRAM!
I PLAN TO, INPUT! AS SOON AS HE STOPS VIBRATING!
MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF, MUSTACHE MAN! SEGUE INTO A MONOLOGUE ABOUT WHERE THE RTV REFINERY WAS AND WHAT YOU TROOPERS DID TO IT!
WE'RE EDITING OUT THIS "COLD TURKEY" SEQUENCE, YOU COPY?
RETOX WANTS REALITEE-VEE BACK ON LINE NOW! SO, YOU'D BETTER SPEAK DIRECTLY INTO THE MIKE IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
CAN'T YOU SEE? OLD REDD DON'T WANT LIFE! ‹CHOKE› YOU MURDER MY FRIENDS AND THE ONLY WOMAN I EVER LOVE--
--SO YOU BE DOING ME A FAVOR TO KILL ME NOW!
IN THAT CASE, LET'S BRING OUT OUR NEXT GUEST--
--THE LADY YOU WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT! LET'S HEAR IT FOR TARIN!
SURPRISED SHE'S NOT DEAD, REDD? I'M SURE WE CAN ARRANGE THAT FOR HER--NICE AND SLOW! YOU'LL DEFINITELY WANT TO STAY TUNED!

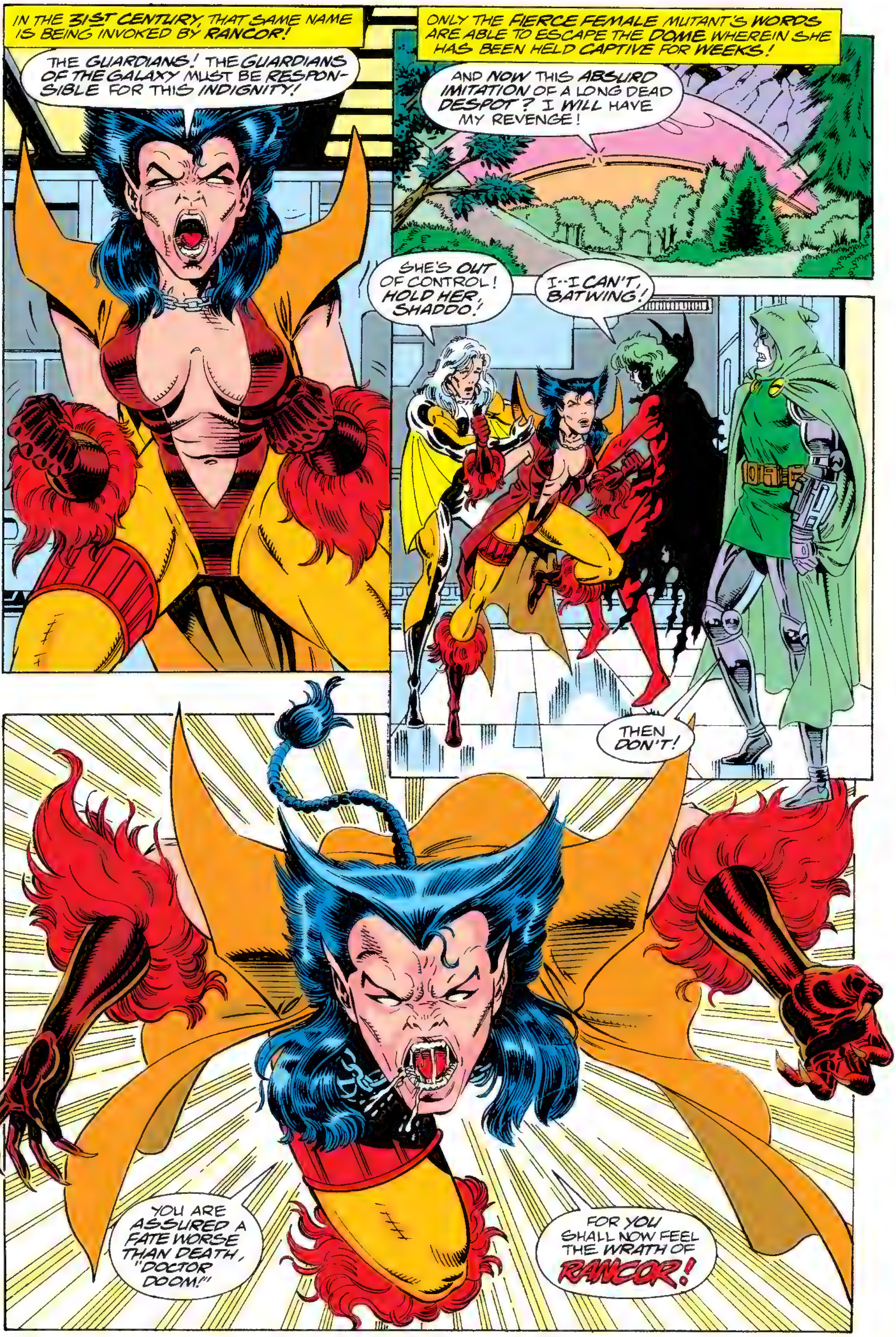

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE 20TH CENTURY AVENGERS MANSION...
IT IS DONE!
I HAVE MITIGATED THE DANGER TO OUR UNIVERSE--
--ALL WHO LIVE MAY NOW BREATHE A COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF!
HSSSST
FWIP
SHUNK
SO SAYING, I RETURN THE SHIELDS TO THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS!
YOU STILL SEEM CONFUSED, MAJOR VICTORY?
WELL, IT WOULD BE NICE TO KNOW WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT!
DOES THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TIME/SPACE CONTINUUM SEEM LIKE ENOUGH TO MAKE A "FUSS" OVER?

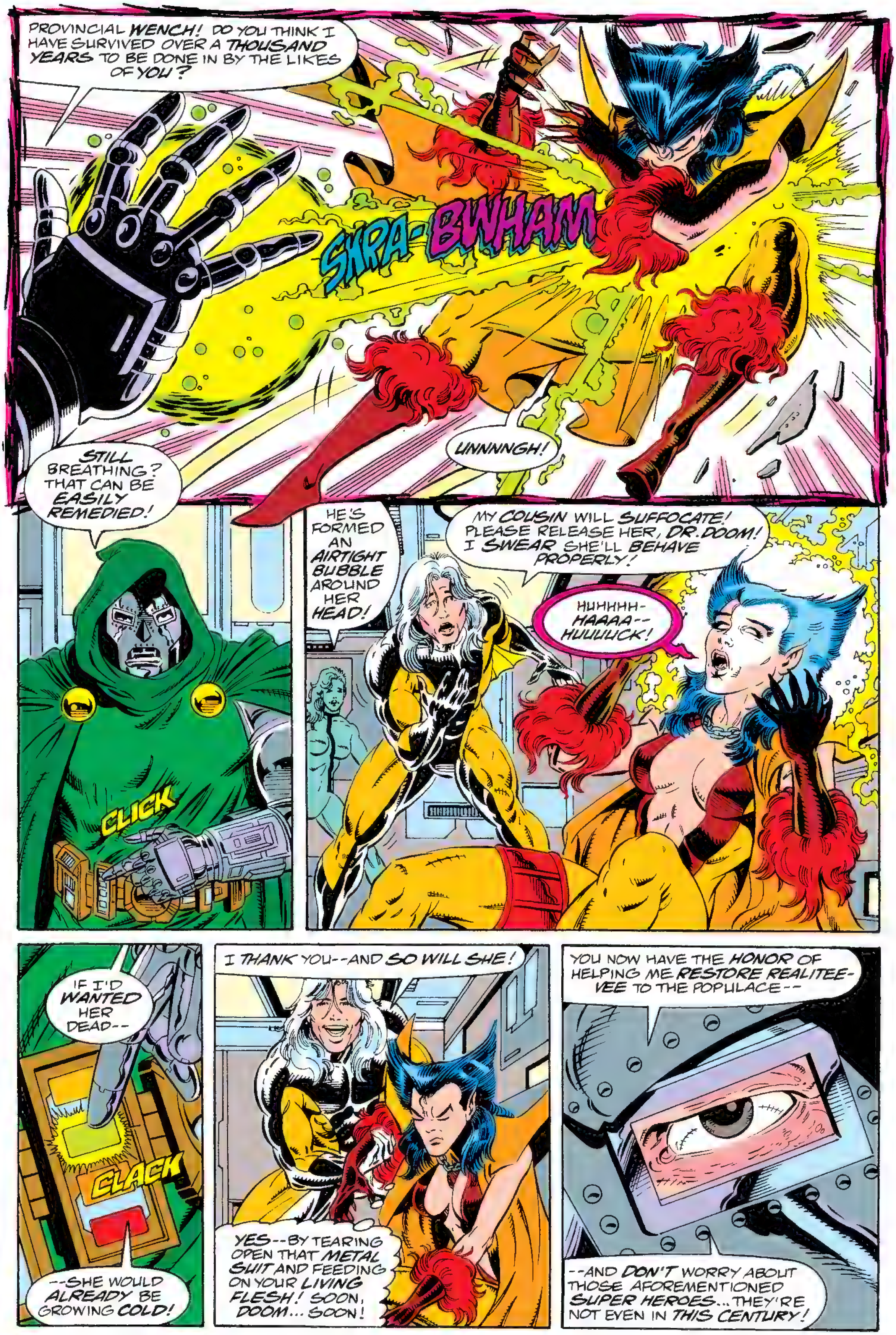

I'M NO MASTER OF TIME BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THESE SHIELDS ARE THE SAME ITEM FROM TWO DIVERGENT TIMELINES! WERE THEY EVER TO MAKE CONTACT, CHRONOLOGICAL CHAOS WOULD ERUPT!
I HAD TO PREVENT THAT POSSIBILITY--
DR. DRUID'S RIGHT! THE SHIELDS ARE ACTING LIKE THOSE LITTLE BLACK AND WHITE "SCOTTY DOGS" I HAD AS A KID!
HUH? THE WHAT...?
--THEREFORE, I HAVE PLACED A POLARIZATION SPELL ON YOUR SHIELDS, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO TOUCH!
GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN!
NEVER MIND, SON--I'M JUST SHOWING MY AGE!
BUT ENOUGH DELAYS! YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR DISAPPROVAL OF YOUR TEAMMATES' CURRENT MISSION?
YES! EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THEY'RE PROBABLY GETTING READY TO ATTACK THE BADOON HOMEWORLD! AND I LET THEM GO! HOW CAN I CALL MYSELF THE LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS?

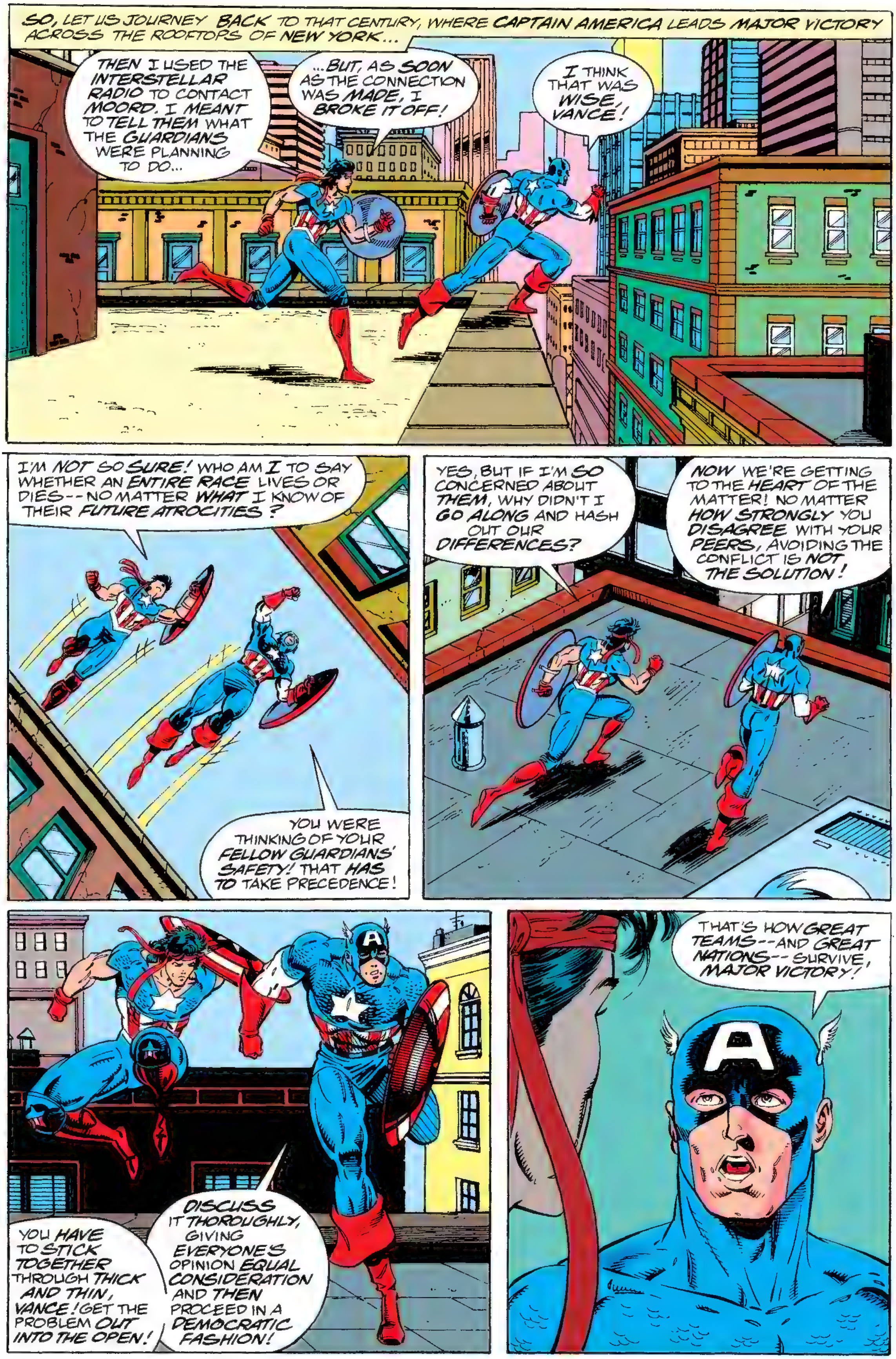

GUARDIANS!
ALERT
RED ALERT! INCOMING MULTI-WARHEAD NUCLEAR MISSILE!
HUH? IT DETONATED WAY OFF THE STARBOARD DECK!
THAT WAS JUST A SHOT ACROSS THE BOW TO GET OUR ATTENTION, TALON! THEY MUST BE READY TO TALK!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CHUNKY! HERE COMES A TRANSMISSION FROM THE PALACE!
INHUMAN! MERCURIAN! JOVIAN! ONCE AGAIN, YOU HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF LOOKING UPON THE COUNTENANCE OF THE BROTHER ROYAL!
HOLD YOUR FLESHY ROUND TONGUES AND HEAR MY DECREE CONCERNING YOUR TRANSGRESSION!
OH, THANK YOU TOO MUCH!
WHAT I'LL HOLD IS YOUR HEAD ON A STICK, YOU TWO-BIT DICTATOR! LET'S SEE IF YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO MESS WITH US!
OPENING TORPEDO HATCH ONE...
WAIT, CAPTAIN-27!
HEAR ME OUT...

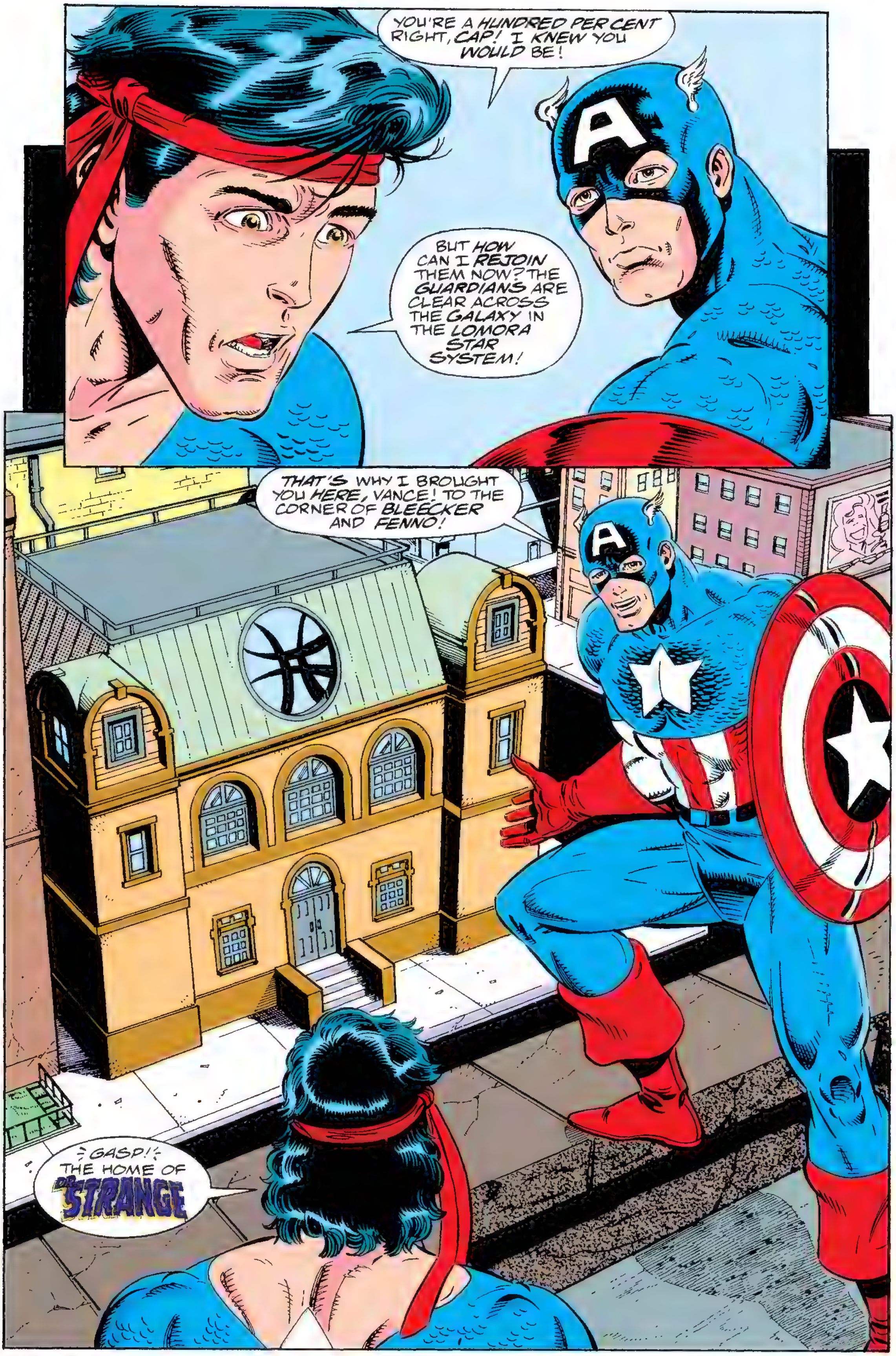

I ISSUE YOU A CHALLENGE-- A FAIR FIGHT IF YOU CAN GRASP SUCH A CONCEPT! I PROPOSE A GLADIATORIAL CONTEST!
ANY ONE OF YOU GUARDIANS AGAINST MY FINEST WARRIOR IN OUR MAIN ARENA. WINNER TAKE ALL--IF YOU WIN, MOORD IS YOURS TO CONQUER! BUT IF YOU LOSE, YOUR SHIP, ITS CREW AND WEAPONRY ARE FORFEIT! AGREED?
DOES HE TAKE US FOR IDIOTS? WE ALL KNOW THE BADOON'S REPUTATION FOR DECEIT AND TREACHERY! WE'VE SEEN IT FIRST HAND TIME AND TIME AGAIN!
WHAT KIND OF GUARANTEE WOULD WE HAVE THAT OUR-- "GLADIATOR" WON'T BE AMBUSHED?
I ANTICIPATED YOUR MISTRUST! PREPARE TO RECEIVE THE COORDINATES TO OUR MAIN EGG HATCHERY!
WHAT?!
THIS IS SOME KIND OF TRICK!

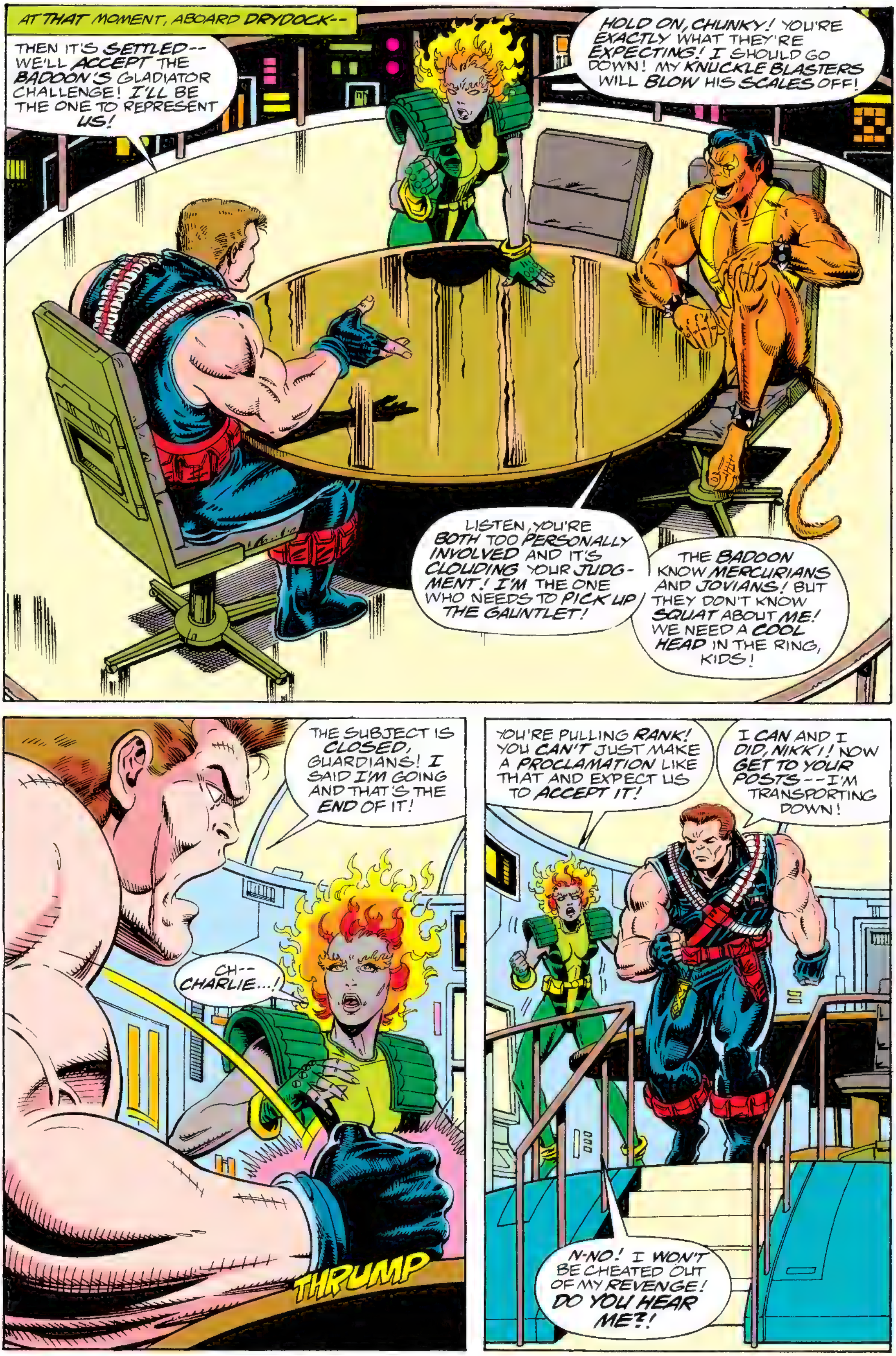

INDEED IT IS NOT, WOMAN OF FLAME! BY REVEALING THIS LOCATION TO YOU, I PLACE IN JEOPARDY THE ENTIRE UPCOMING GENERATION OF THE BADOON RACE!
ACCESS THE DATA! LOCK YOUR WEAPONS ON THE TARGET! YOU WILL SEE I AM IN EARNEST!
IT CHECKS OUT, CHUNKY!
I'M READING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EMBRYONIC REPTILIAN LIFE FORMS CONCENTRATED IN THAT SPOT!
HMMM--IT STILL SMELLS FISHY, NIKKI! BUT--
I GRANT YOU TEN MINUTES TO DECIDE--
--AFTER WHICH TIME WE SHALL ASSUME YOU PREFER TO ENGAGE IN FULL SCALE WAR!
TRANSMISSION ENDED!
HMM--THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE SEVERELY IMPACTING MY PLANS. PERHAPS I'D BETTER RECONSIDER REVEALING MYSELF TO THE GUARDIANS!

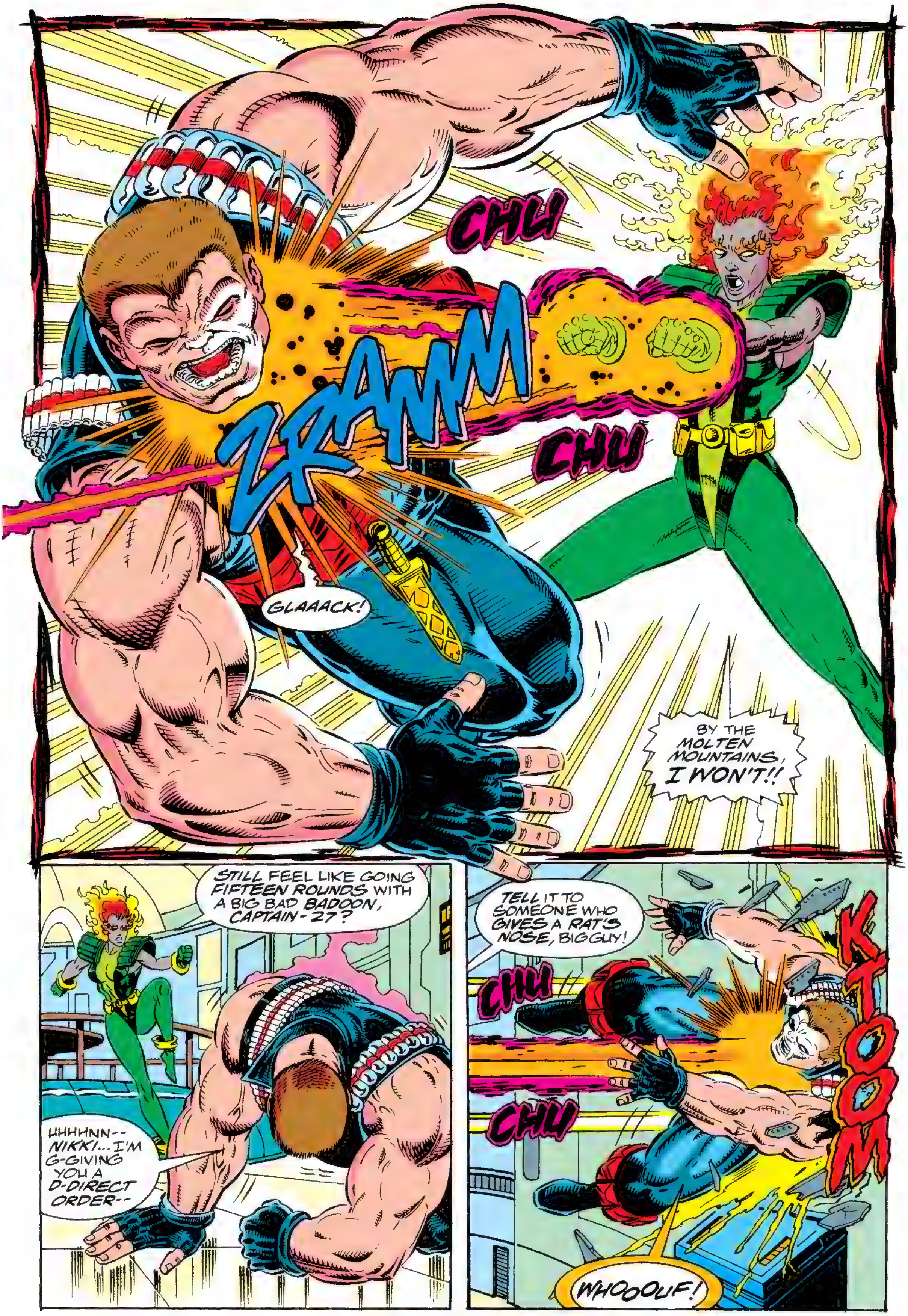

IN THE 31ST CENTURY, THAT SAME NAME IS BEING INVOKED BY RANCOR!
THE GUARDIANS! THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INDIGNITY!
ONLY THE FIERCE FEMALE MUTANT'S WORDS ARE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE DOME WHEREIN SHE HAS BEEN HELD CAPTIVE FOR WEEKS!
AND NOW THIS ABSURD IMITATION OF A LONG DEAD DESPOT? I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!
SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL! HOLD HER, SHADDO!
I--I CAN'T, BATWING!
THEN DON'T!
YOU ARE ASSURED A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH, "DOCTOR DOOM!"
FOR YOU SHALL NOW FEEL THE WRATH OF RANCOR!

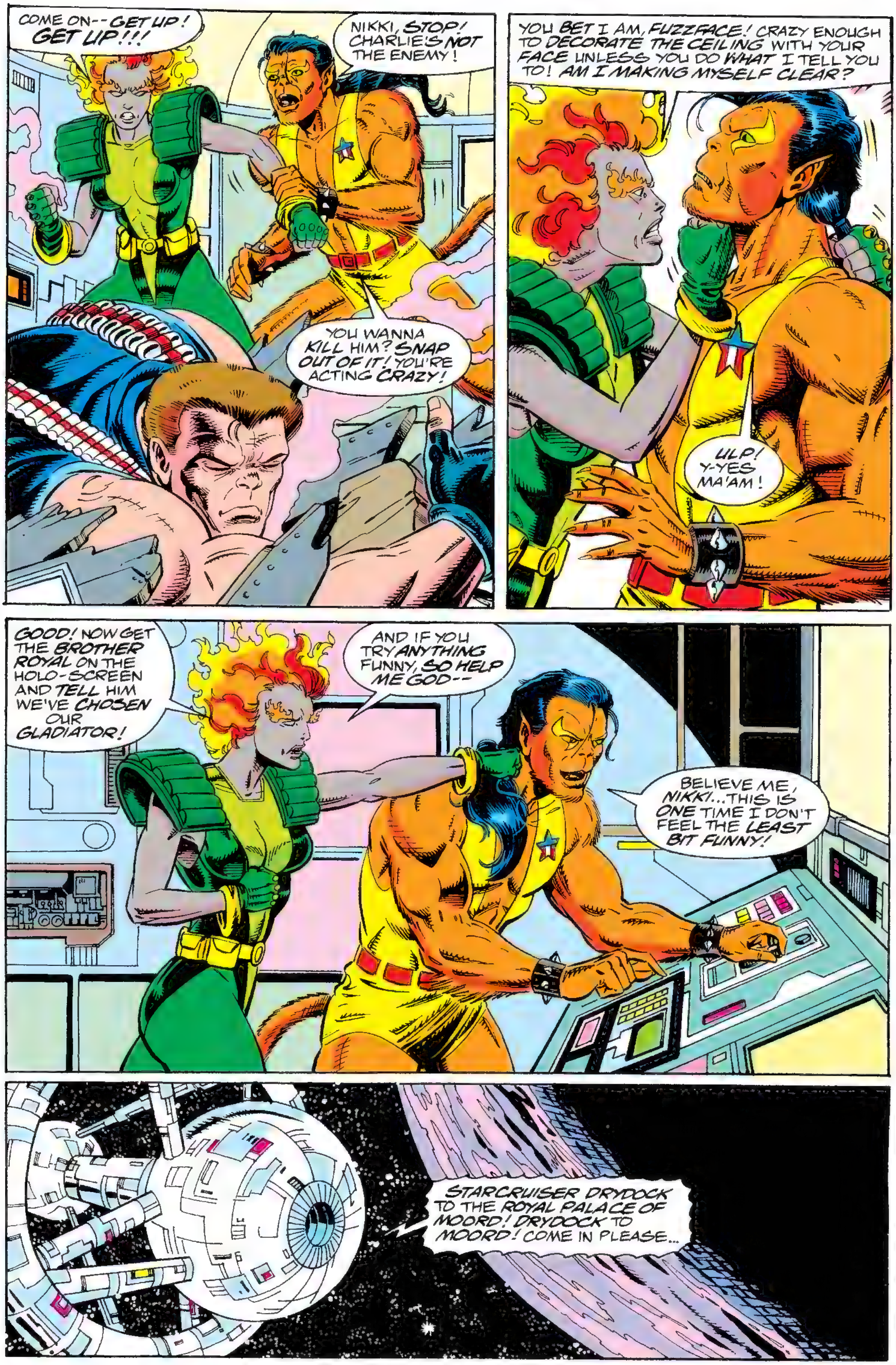

PROVINCIAL WENCH! DO YOU THINK I HAVE SURVIVED OVER A THOUSAND YEARS TO BE DONE IN BY THE LIKES OF YOU?
SKRA-BWHAM
UNNNNGH!
STILL BREATHING? THAT CAN BE EASILY REMEDIED!
CLICK
HE'S FORMED AN AIRTIGHT BUBBLE AROUND HER HEAD!
MY COUSIN WILL SUFFOCATE! PLEASE RELEASE HER, DR. DOOM! I SWEAR SHE'LL BEHAVE PROPERLY!
HUHHHH-HAAAA--HUUUUCK!
IF I'D WANTED HER DEAD--
CLACK
--SHE WOULD ALREADY BE GROWING COLD!
I THANK YOU--AND SO WILL SHE!
YES--BY TEARING OPEN THAT METAL SUIT AND FEEDING ON YOUR LIVING FLESH! SOON, DOOM... SOON!
YOU NOW HAVE THE HONOR OF HELPING ME RESTORE REALITEE-VEE TO THE POPULACE--
--AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE AFOREMENTIONED SUPER HEROES... THEY'RE NOT EVEN IN THIS CENTURY!

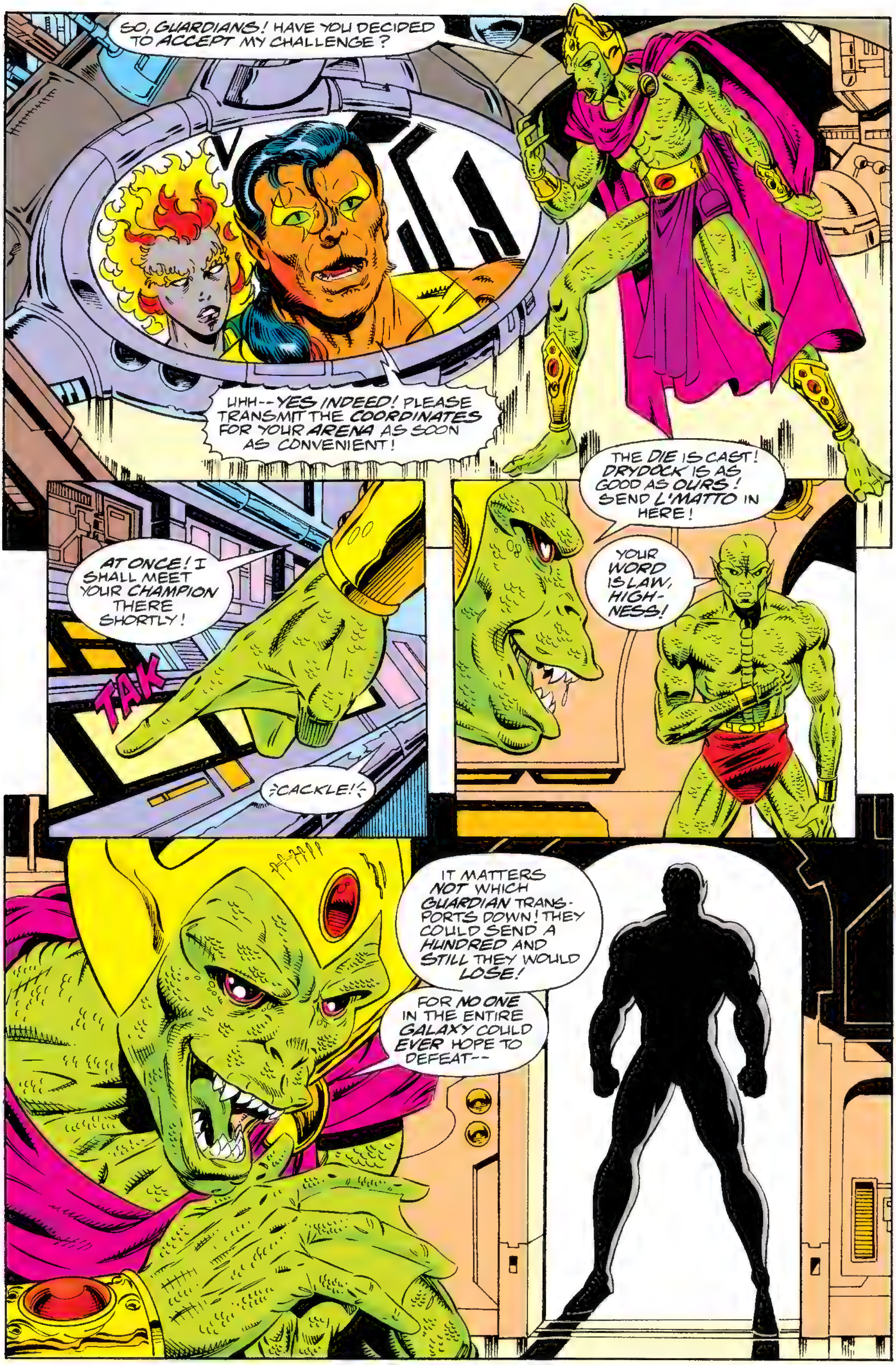

SO, LET US JOURNEY BACK TO THAT CENTURY, WHERE CAPTAIN AMERICA LEADS MAJOR VICTORY ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS OF NEW YORK...
THEN I USED THE INTERSTELLAR RADIO TO CONTACT MOORD. I MEANT TO TELL THEM WHAT THE GUARDIANS WERE PLANNING TO DO...
...BUT, AS SOON AS THE CONNECTION WAS MADE, I BROKE IT OFF!
I THINK THAT WAS WISE, VANCE!
I'M NOT SO SURE! WHO AM I TO SAY WHETHER AN ENTIRE RACE LIVES OR DIES--NO MATTER WHAT I KNOW OF THEIR FUTURE ATROCITIES?
YOU WERE THINKING OF YOUR FELLOW GUARDIANS' SAFETY! THAT HAS TO TAKE PRECEDENCE!
YES, BUT IF I'M SO CONCERNED ABOUT THEM, WHY DIDN'T I GO ALONG AND HASH OUT OUR DIFFERENCES?
NOW WE'RE GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER! NO MATTER HOW STRONGLY YOU DISAGREE WITH YOUR PEERS, AVOIDING THE CONFLICT IS NOT THE SOLUTION!
YOU HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER THROUGH THICK AND THIN, VANCE! GET THE PROBLEM OUT INTO THE OPEN!
DISCUSS IT THOROUGHLY, GIVING EVERYONE'S OPINION EQUAL CONSIDERATION AND THEN PROCEED IN A DEMOCRATIC FASHION!
THAT'S HOW GREAT TEAMS--AND GREAT NATIONS--SURVIVE, MAJOR VICTORY!

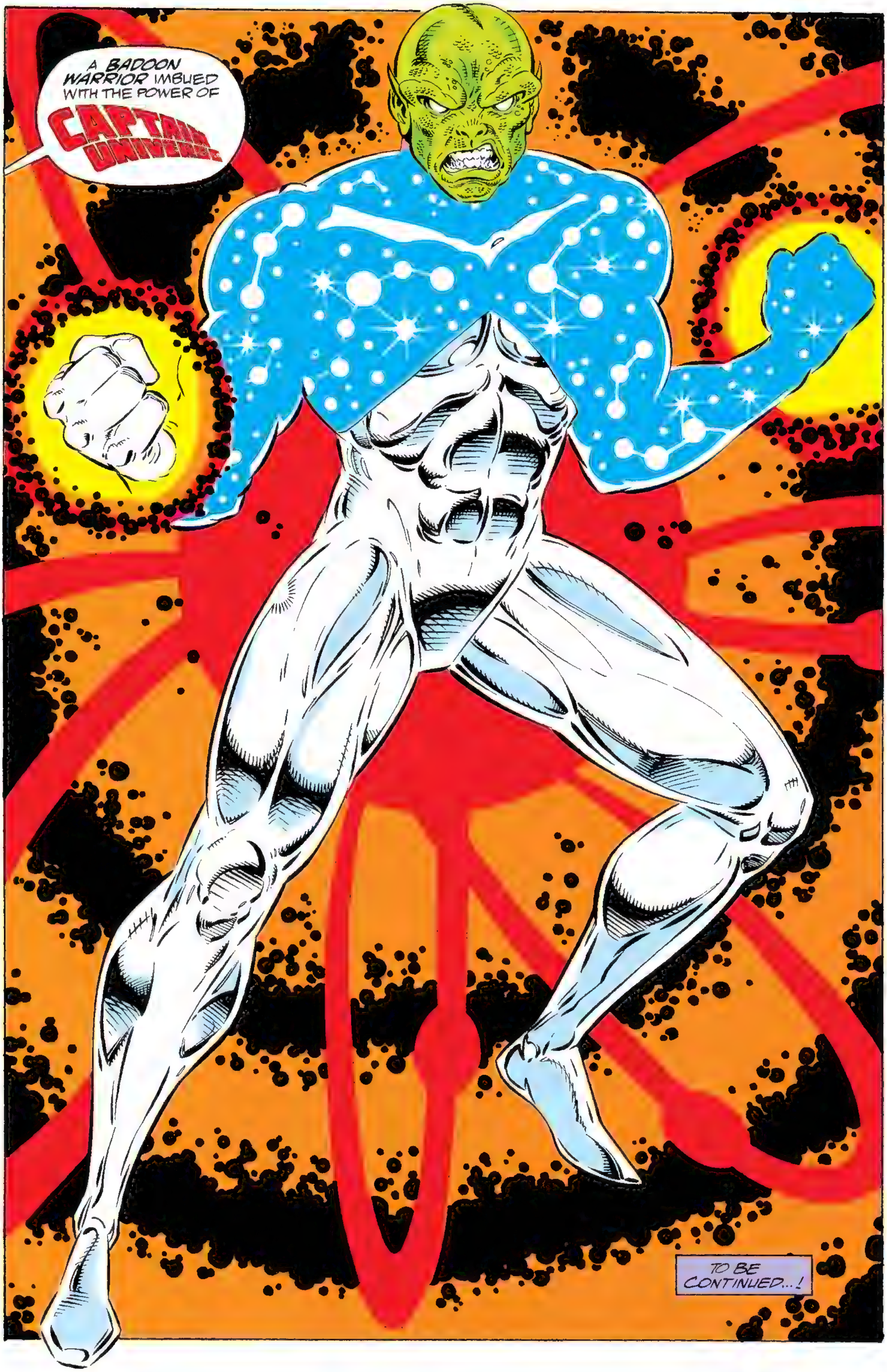

YOU'RE A HUNDRED PER CENT RIGHT, CAP! I KNEW YOU WOULD BE!
BUT HOW CAN I REJOIN THEM NOW? THE GUARDIANS ARE CLEAR ACROSS THE GALAXY IN THE LOMORA STAR SYSTEM!
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE, VANCE! TO THE CORNER OF BLEECKER AND FENNO!
GASP! THE HOME OF DR. STRANGE

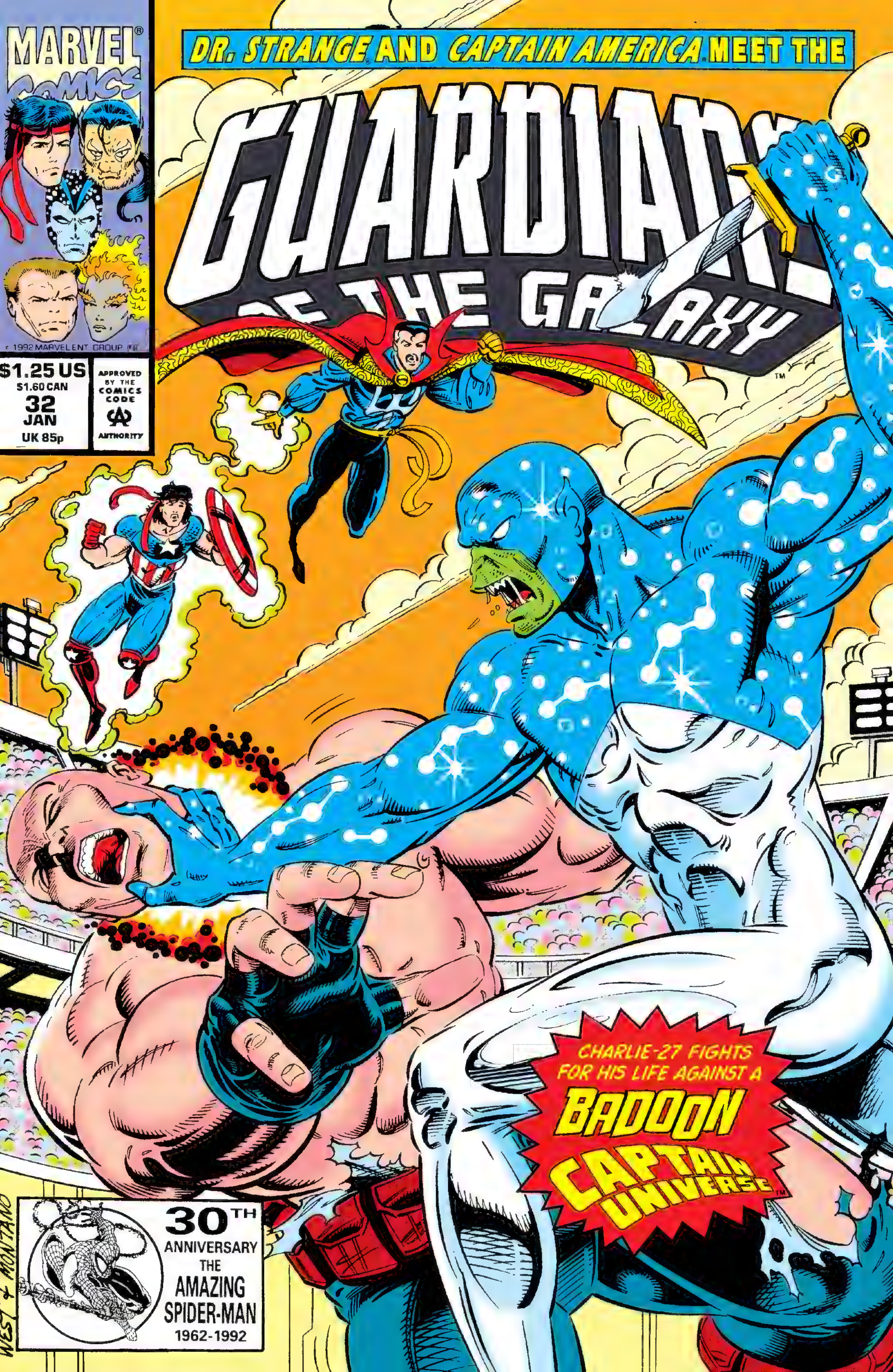

AT THAT MOMENT, ABOARD DRYDOCK--
THEN IT'S SETTLED-- WE'LL ACCEPT THE BADOON'S GLADIATOR CHALLENGE! I'LL BE THE ONE TO REPRESENT US!
HOLD ON, CHUNKY! YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE EXPECTING! I SHOULD GO DOWN! MY KNUCKLE BLASTERS WILL BLOW HIS SCALES OFF!
LISTEN, YOU'RE BOTH TOO PERSONALLY INVOLVED AND IT'S CLOUDING YOUR JUDGMENT! I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO PICK UP THE GAUNTLET!
THE BADOON KNOW MERCURIANS AND JOVIANS! BUT THEY DON'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT ME! WE NEED A COOL HEAD IN THE RING, KIDS!
THE SUBJECT IS CLOSED, GUARDIANS! I SAID I'M GOING AND THAT'S THE END OF IT!
CH-- CHARLIE...!
THRUMP
YOU'RE PULLING RANK! YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE A PROCLAMATION LIKE THAT AND EXPECT US TO ACCEPT IT!
I CAN AND I DID, NIKKI! NOW GET TO YOUR POSTS--I'M TRANSPORTING DOWN!
N-NO! I WON'T BE CHEATED OUT OF MY REVENGE! DO YOU HEAR ME?!


CHU
ZRAMM
CHU
GLAAACK!
BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS, I WON'T!!
STILL FEEL LIKE GOING FIFTEEN ROUNDS WITH A BIG BAD BADOON, CAPTAIN-27?
UHHHNN-- NIKKI... I'M G-GIVING YOU A D-DIRECT ORDER--
TELL IT TO SOMEONE WHO GIVES A RAT'S NOSE, BIG GUY!
CHU
CHU
KTOOM
WHOOOUF!


COME ON--GET UP! GET UP!!!
NIKKI, STOP! CHARLIE'S NOT THE ENEMY!
YOU WANNA KILL HIM? SNAP OUT OF IT! YOU'RE ACTING CRAZY!
YOU BET I AM, FUZZFACE! CRAZY ENOUGH TO DECORATE THE CEILING WITH YOUR FACE UNLESS YOU DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO! AM I MAKING MYSELF CLEAR?
ULP! Y-YES MA'AM!
GOOD! NOW GET THE BROTHER ROYAL ON THE HOLO-SCREEN AND TELL HIM WE'VE CHOSEN OUR GLADIATOR!
AND IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FUNNY, SO HELP ME GOD--
BELIEVE ME, NIKKI... THIS IS ONE TIME I DON'T FEEL THE LEAST BIT FUNNY!
STARCRUISER DRYDOCK TO THE ROYAL PALACE OF MOORD! DRYDOCK TO MOORD! COME IN PLEASE...


SO, GUARDIANS! HAVE YOU DECIDED TO ACCEPT MY CHALLENGE?
UHH--YES INDEED! PLEASE TRANSMIT THE COORDINATES FOR YOUR ARENA AS SOON AS CONVENIENT!
AT ONCE! I SHALL MEET YOUR CHAMPION THERE SHORTLY!
TAK
CACKLE!
THE DIE IS CAST! DRYDOCK IS AS GOOD AS OURS! SEND L'MATTO IN HERE!
YOUR WORD IS LAW, HIGHNESS!
IT MATTERS NOT WHICH GUARDIAN TRANSPORTS DOWN! THEY COULD SEND A HUNDRED AND STILL THEY WOULD LOSE!
FOR NO ONE IN THE ENTIRE GALAXY COULD EVER HOPE TO DEFEAT--


A BADOON WARRIOR IMBUED WITH THE POWER OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!
TO BE CONTINUED...!


MARVEL COMICS
DR. STRANGE AND CAPTAIN AMERICA MEET THE
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY™
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32
JAN
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CHARLIE-27 FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE AGAINST A
BADOON
CAPTAIN UNIVERSE™
30TH ANNIVERSARY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1962-1992
WEST & MONTANO

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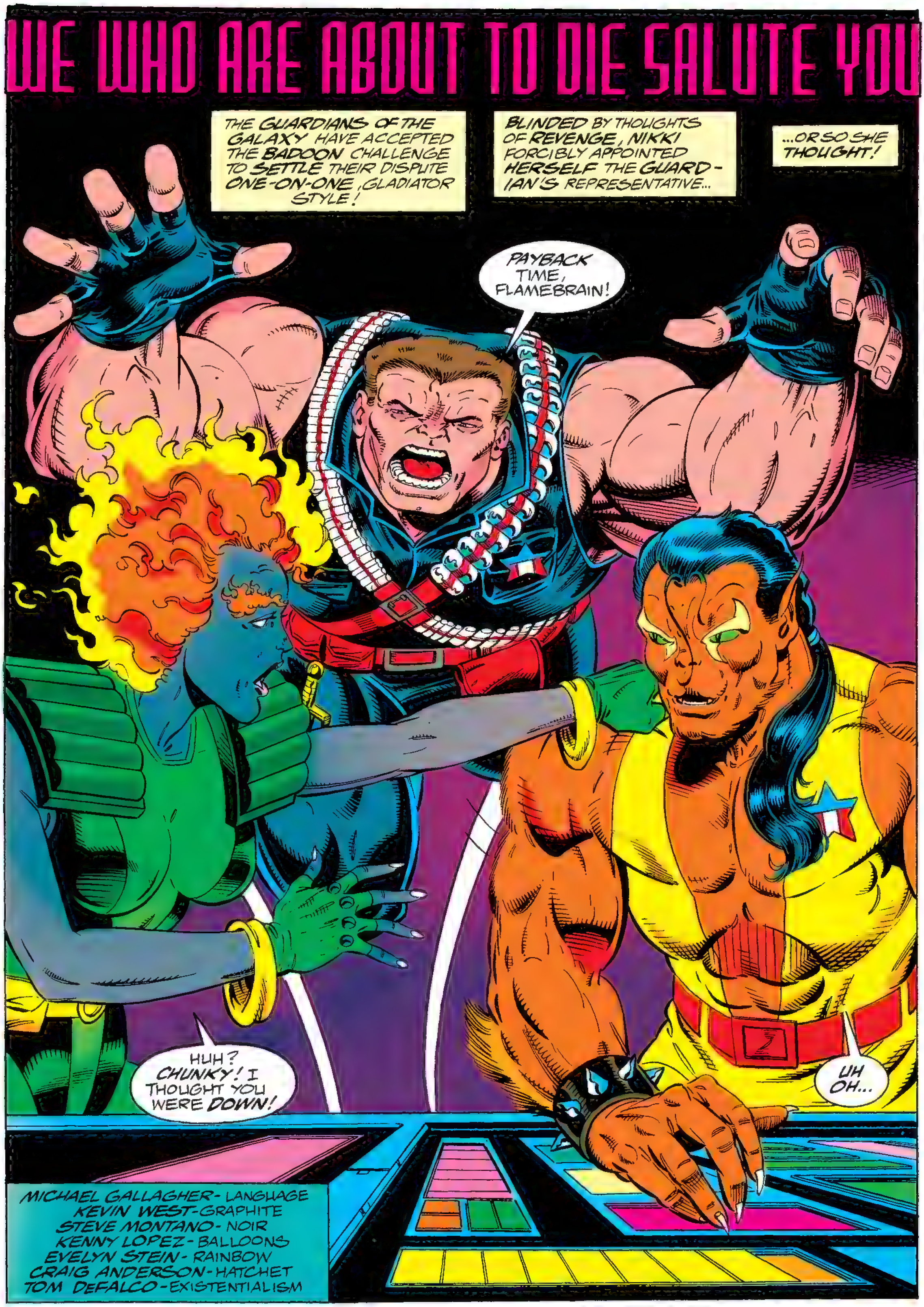
WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE SALUTE YOU
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HAVE ACCEPTED THE BADOON CHALLENGE TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE ONE-ON-ONE, GLADIATOR STYLE!
BLINDED BY THOUGHTS OF REVENGE, NIKKI FORCIBLY APPOINTED HERSELF THE GUARDIAN'S REPRESENTATIVE...
...OR SO SHE THOUGHT!
PAYBACK TIME, FLAMEBRAIN!
HUH? CHUNKY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DOWN!
UH OH...
MICHAEL GALLAGHER- LANGUAGE
KEVIN WEST-GRAPHITE
STEVE MONTANO- NOIR
KENNY LOPEZ- BALLOONS
EVELYN STEIN- RAINBOW
CRAIG ANDERSON- HATCHET
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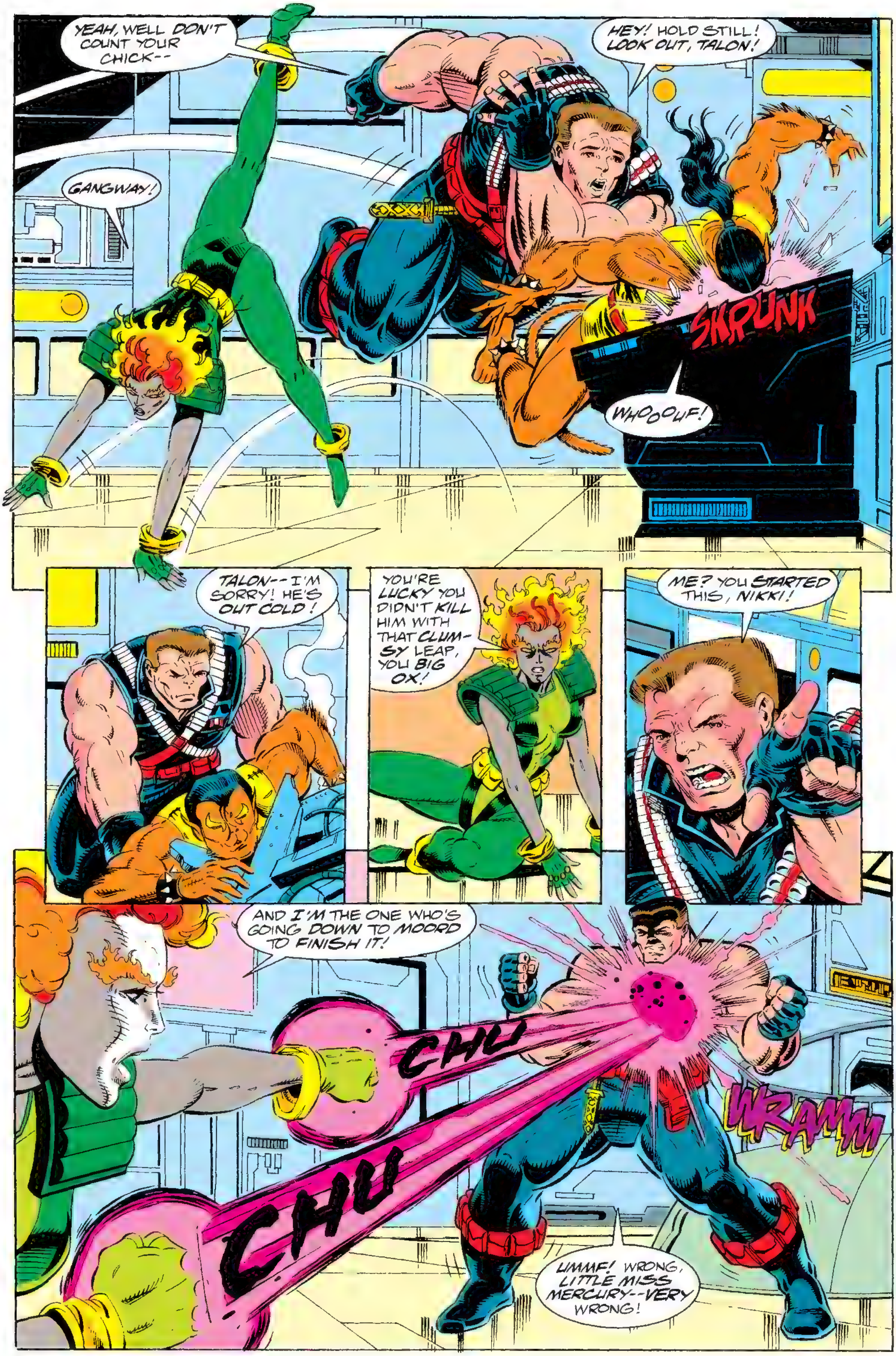
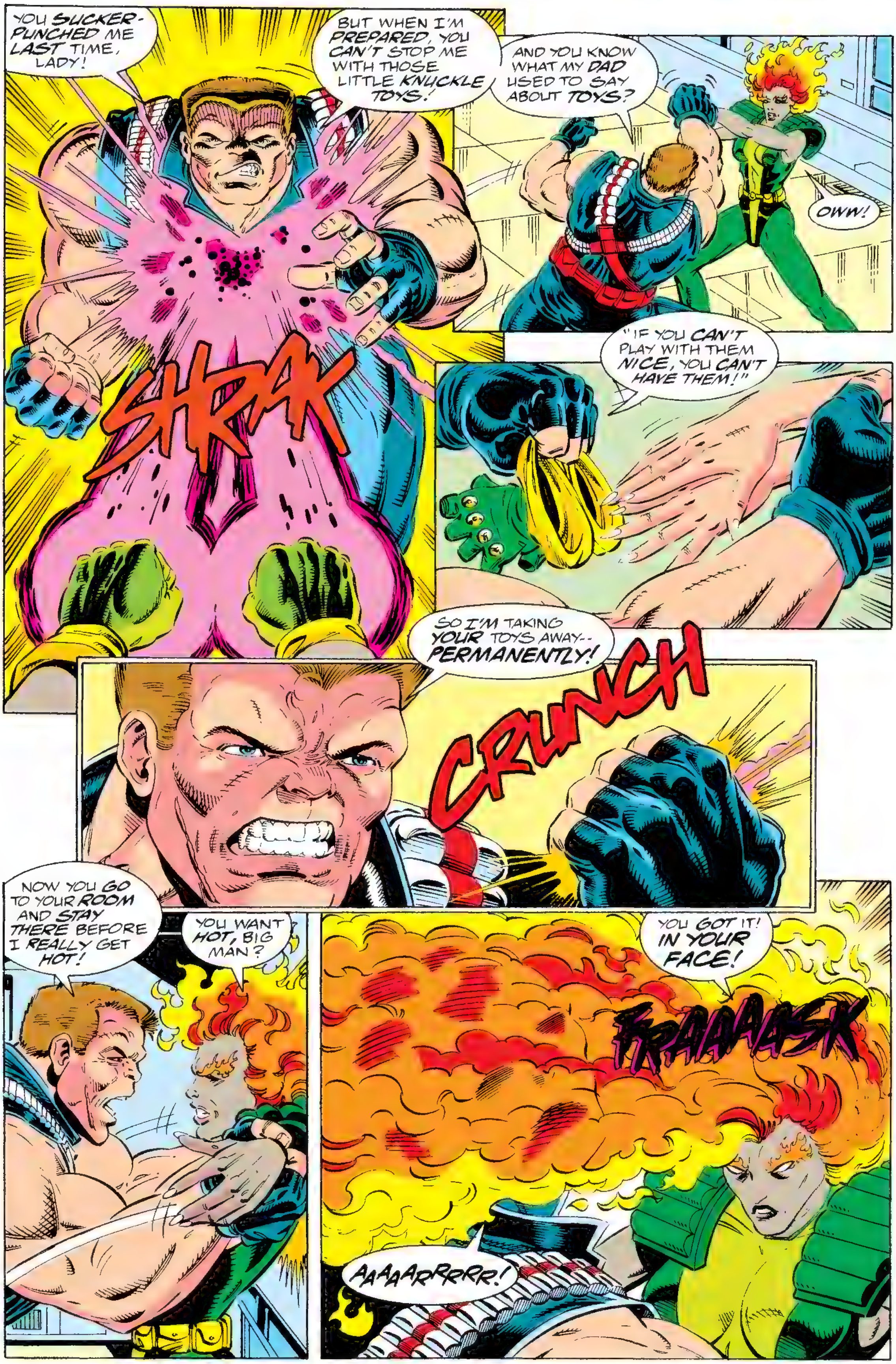
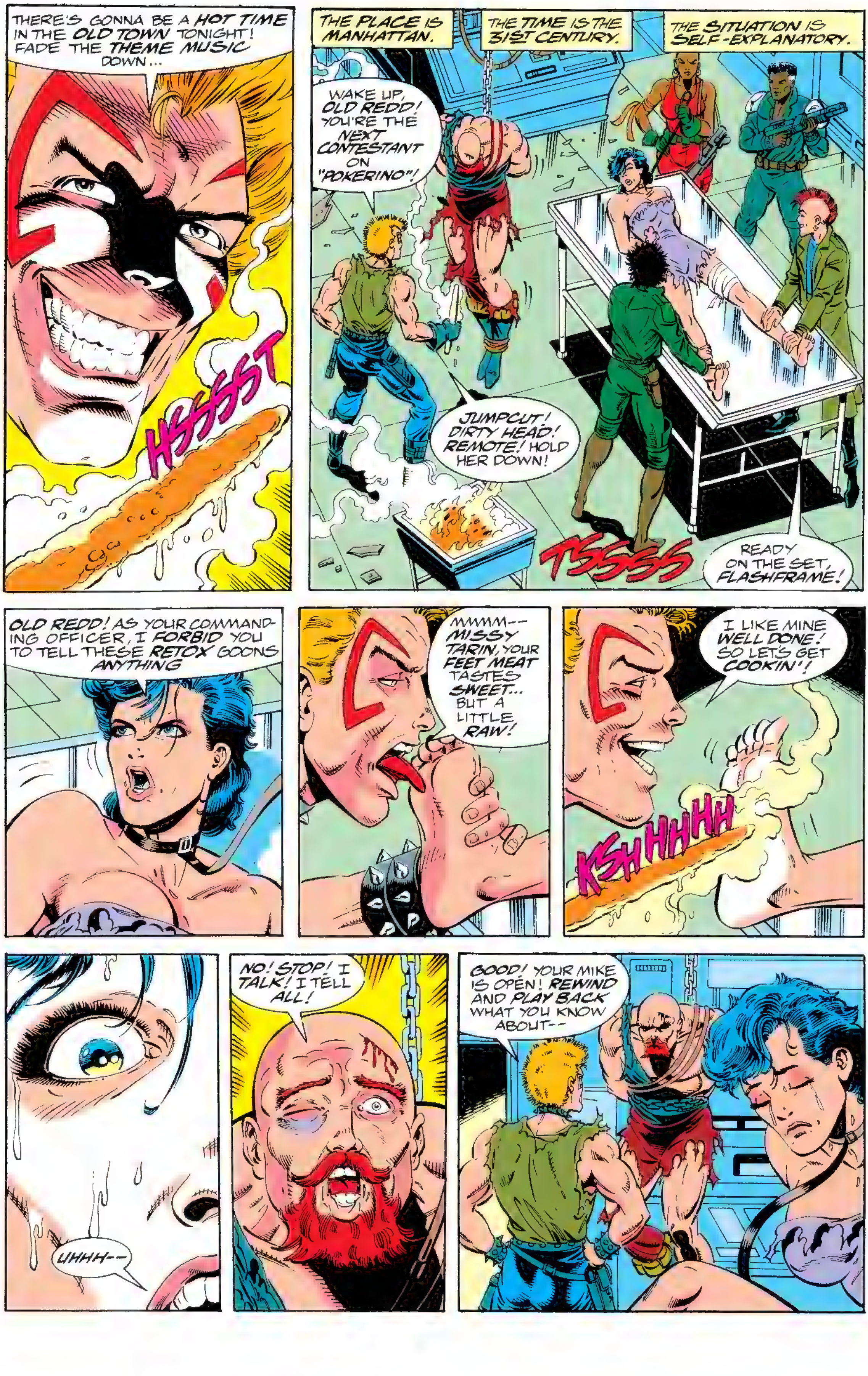
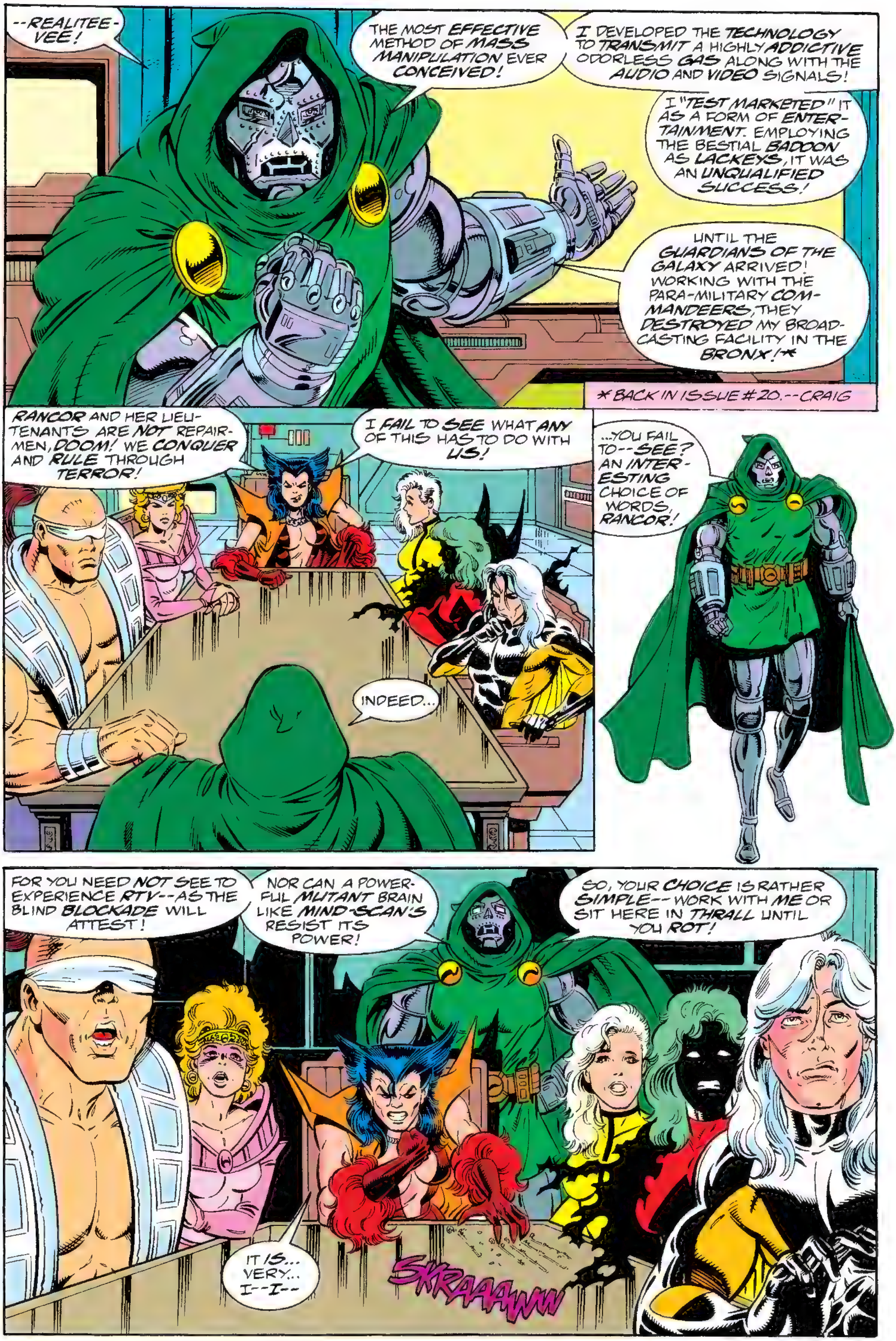
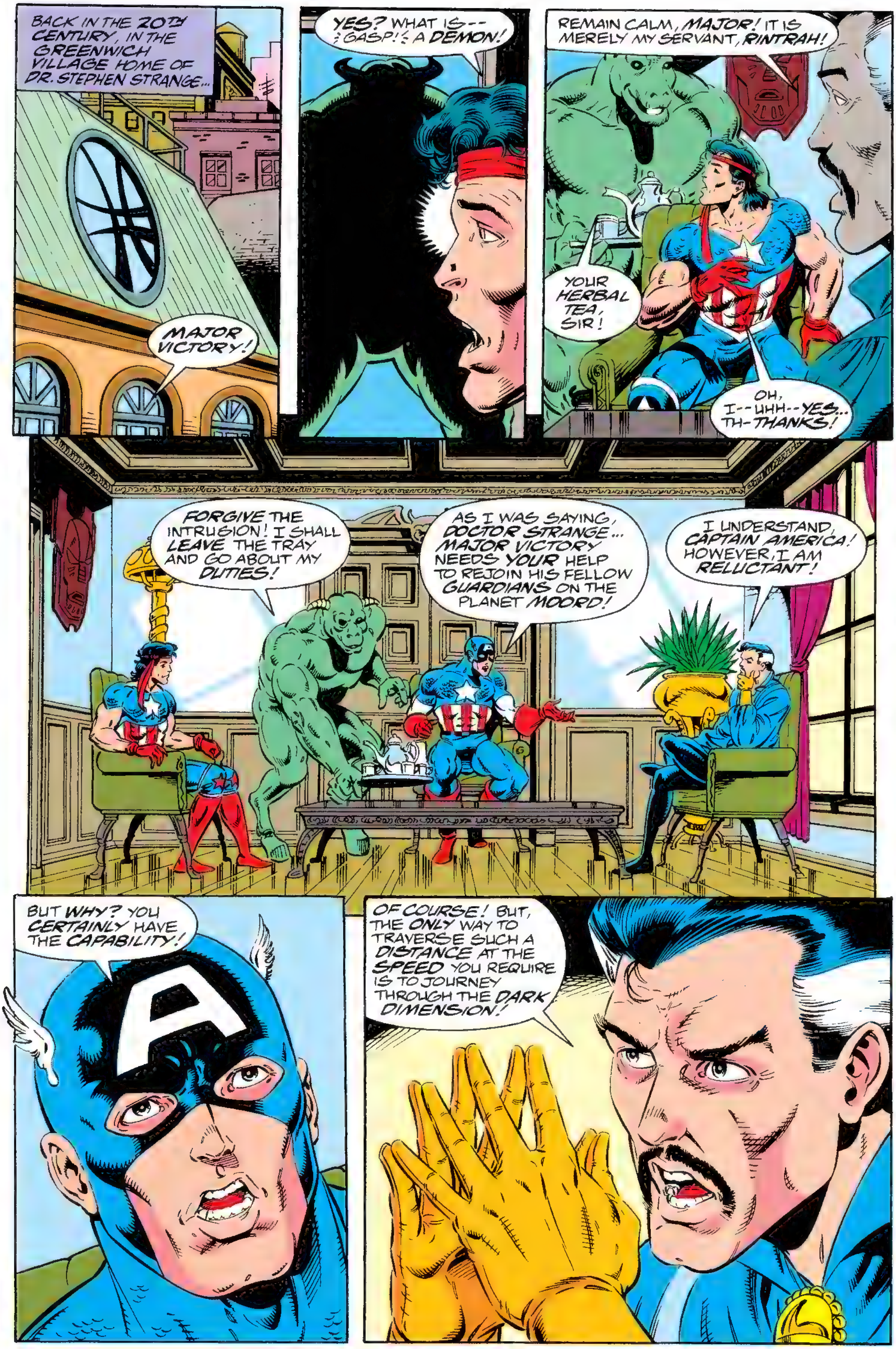
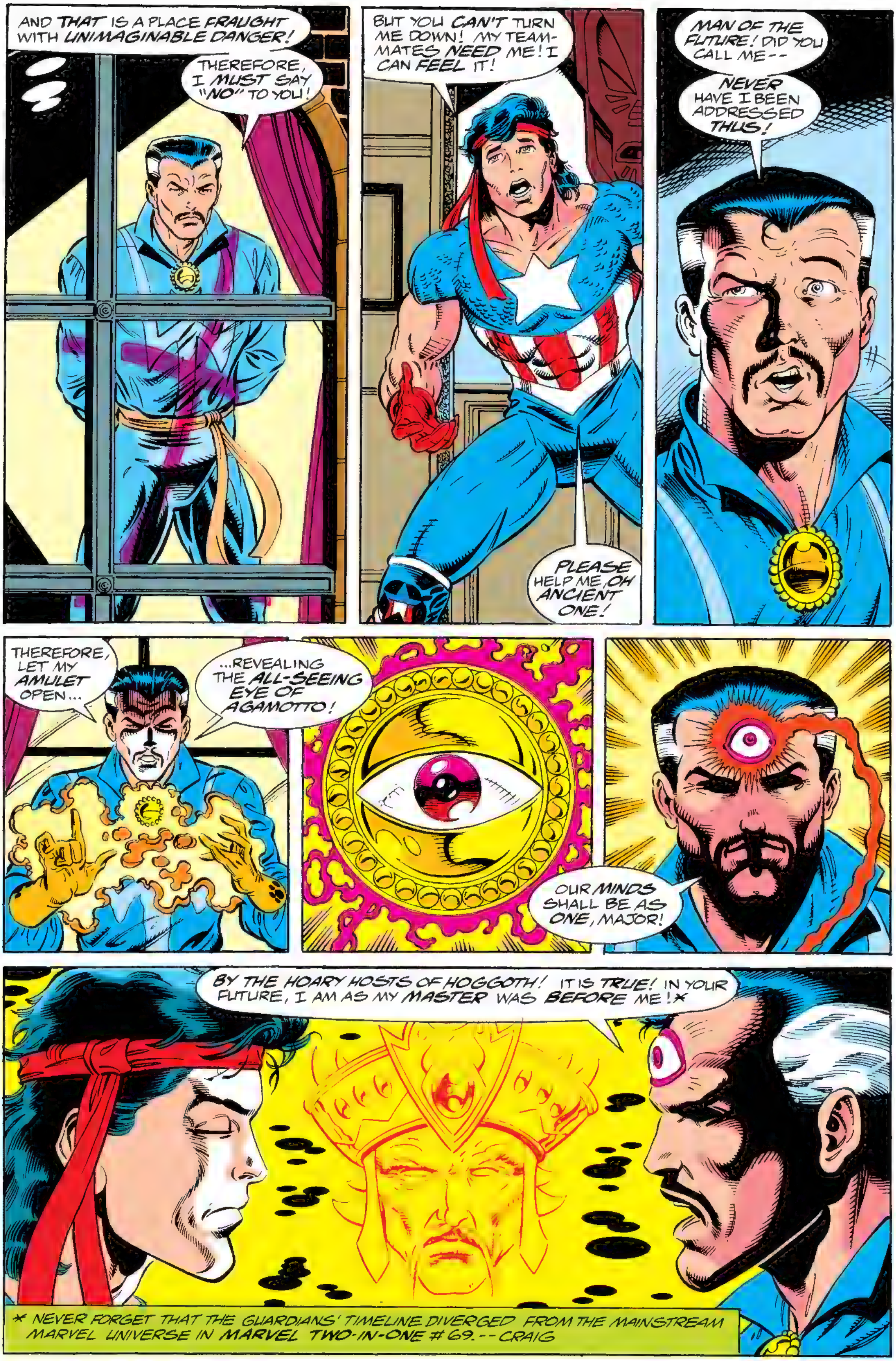

YEAH, WELL DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICK--
HEY! HOLD STILL! LOOK OUT, TALON!
GANGWAY!
SKRUNK
WHOOOUF!
TALON--I'M SORRY! HE'S OUT COLD!
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM WITH THAT CLUMSY LEAP, YOU BIG OX!
ME? YOU STARTED THIS, NIKKI!
AND I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING DOWN TO MOORD TO FINISH IT!
CHU
CHU
WRAMM
UMMF! WRONG, LITTLE MISS MERCURY--VERY WRONG!

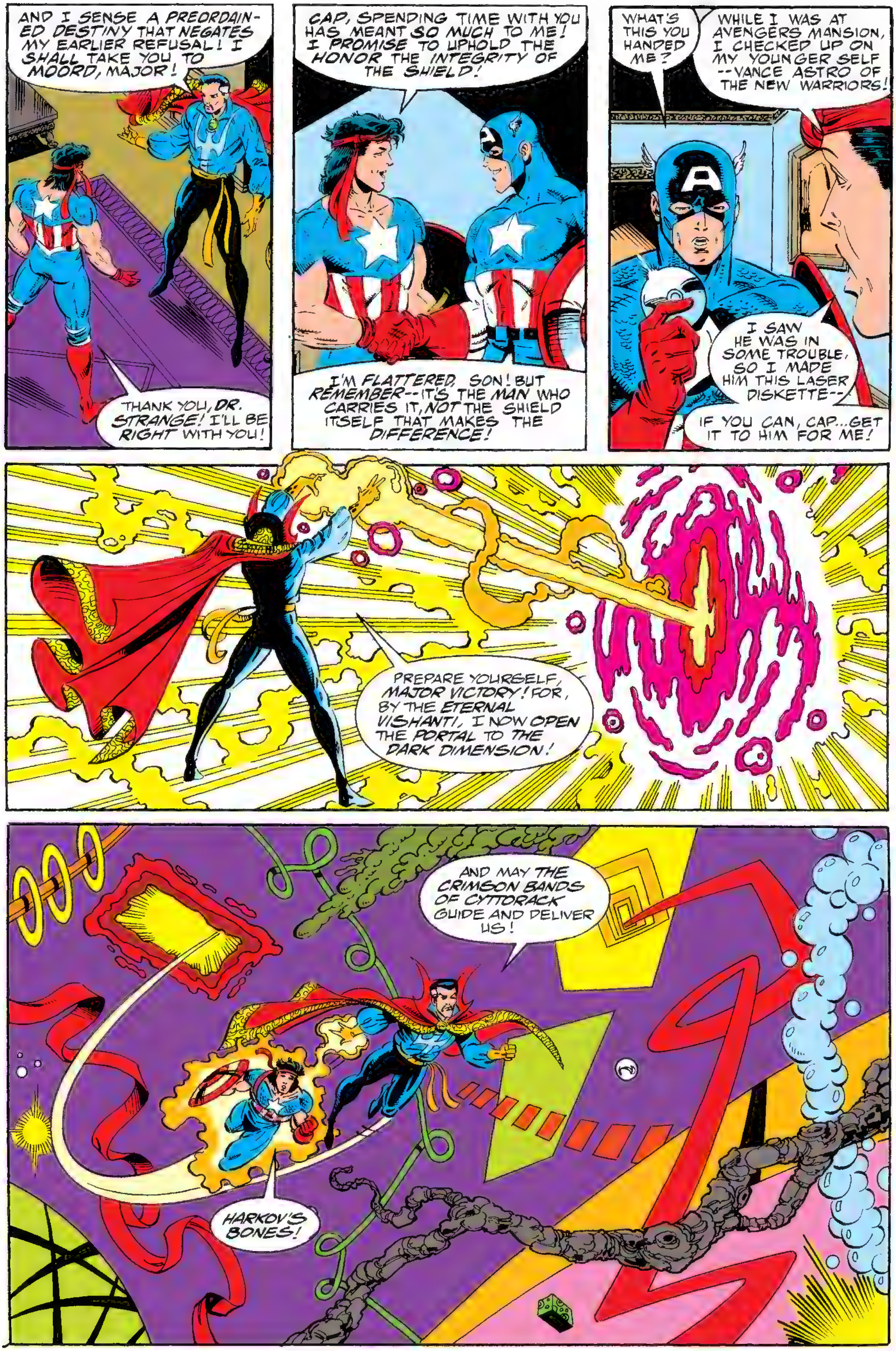

YOU SUCKER-PUNCHED ME LAST TIME, LADY!
BUT WHEN I'M PREPARED, YOU CAN'T STOP ME WITH THOSE LITTLE KNUCKLE TOYS!
SHRAK
AND YOU KNOW WHAT MY DAD USED TO SAY ABOUT TOYS?
OWW!
"IF YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH THEM NICE, YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM!"
SO I'M TAKING YOUR TOYS AWAY-- PERMANENTLY!
CRUNCH
NOW YOU GO TO YOUR ROOM AND STAY THERE BEFORE I REALLY GET HOT!
YOU WANT HOT, BIG MAN?
YOU GOT IT! IN YOUR FACE!
FRAAAASK
AAAAARRRRR!

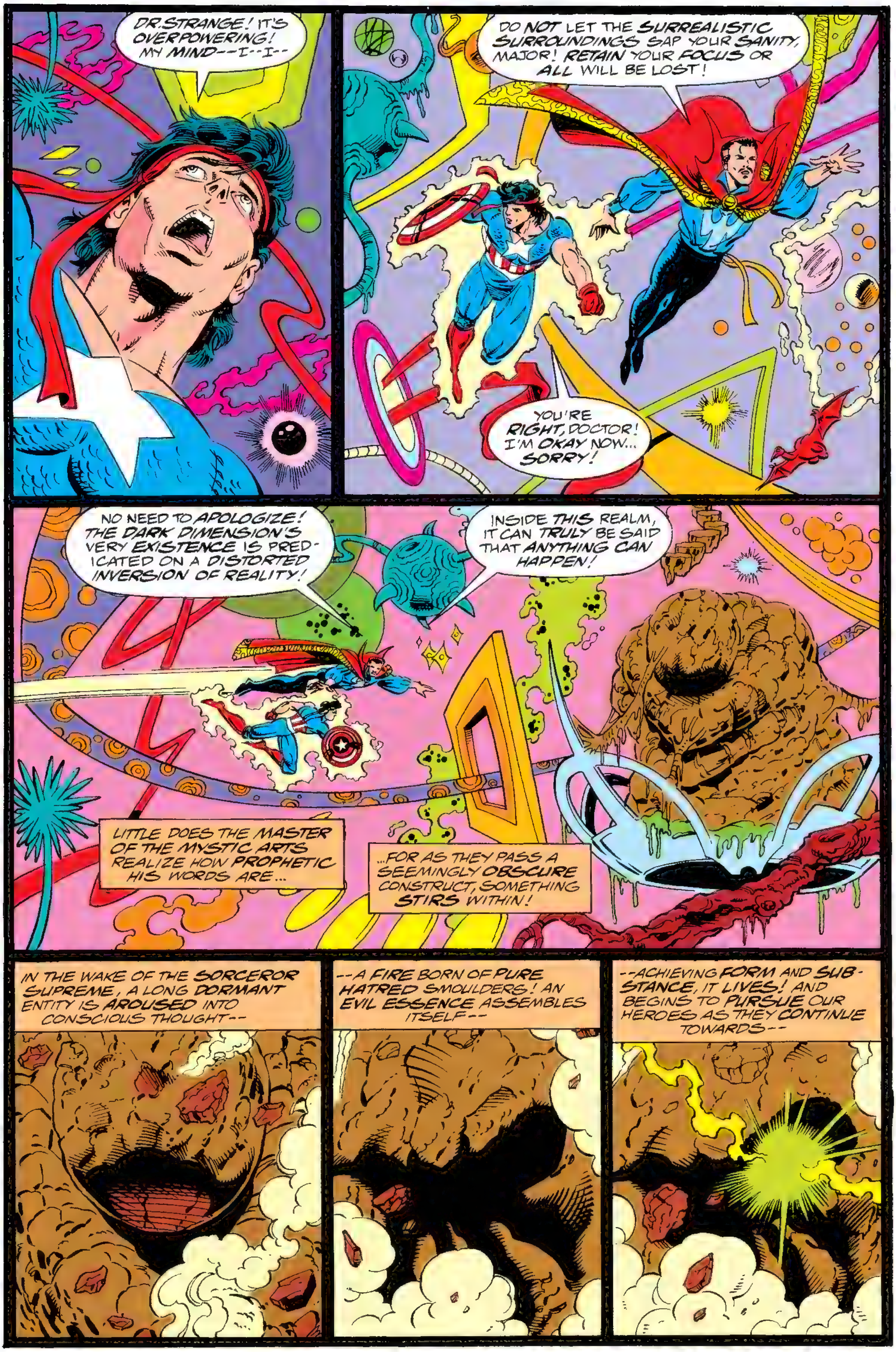

THERE'S GONNA BE A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT! FADE THE THEME MUSIC DOWN...
HSSSST
THE PLACE IS MANHATTAN.
THE TIME IS THE 31ST CENTURY.
THE SITUATION IS SELF-EXPLANATORY.
WAKE UP, OLD REDD! YOU'RE THE NEXT CONTESTANT ON "POKERINO"!
JUMPCUT! DIRTY HEAD! REMOTE! HOLD HER DOWN!
TSSSS
READY ON THE SET, FLASHFRAME!
OLD REDD! AS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER, I FORBID YOU TO TELL THESE RETOX GOONS ANYTHING
MMMM-- MISSY TARIN, YOUR FEET MEAT TASTES SWEET... BUT A LITTLE RAW!
I LIKE MINE WELL DONE! SO LET'S GET COOKIN'!
KSHHHHH
UHHH--
NO! STOP! I TALK! I TELL ALL!
GOOD! YOUR MIKE IS OPEN! REWIND AND PLAY BACK WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT--

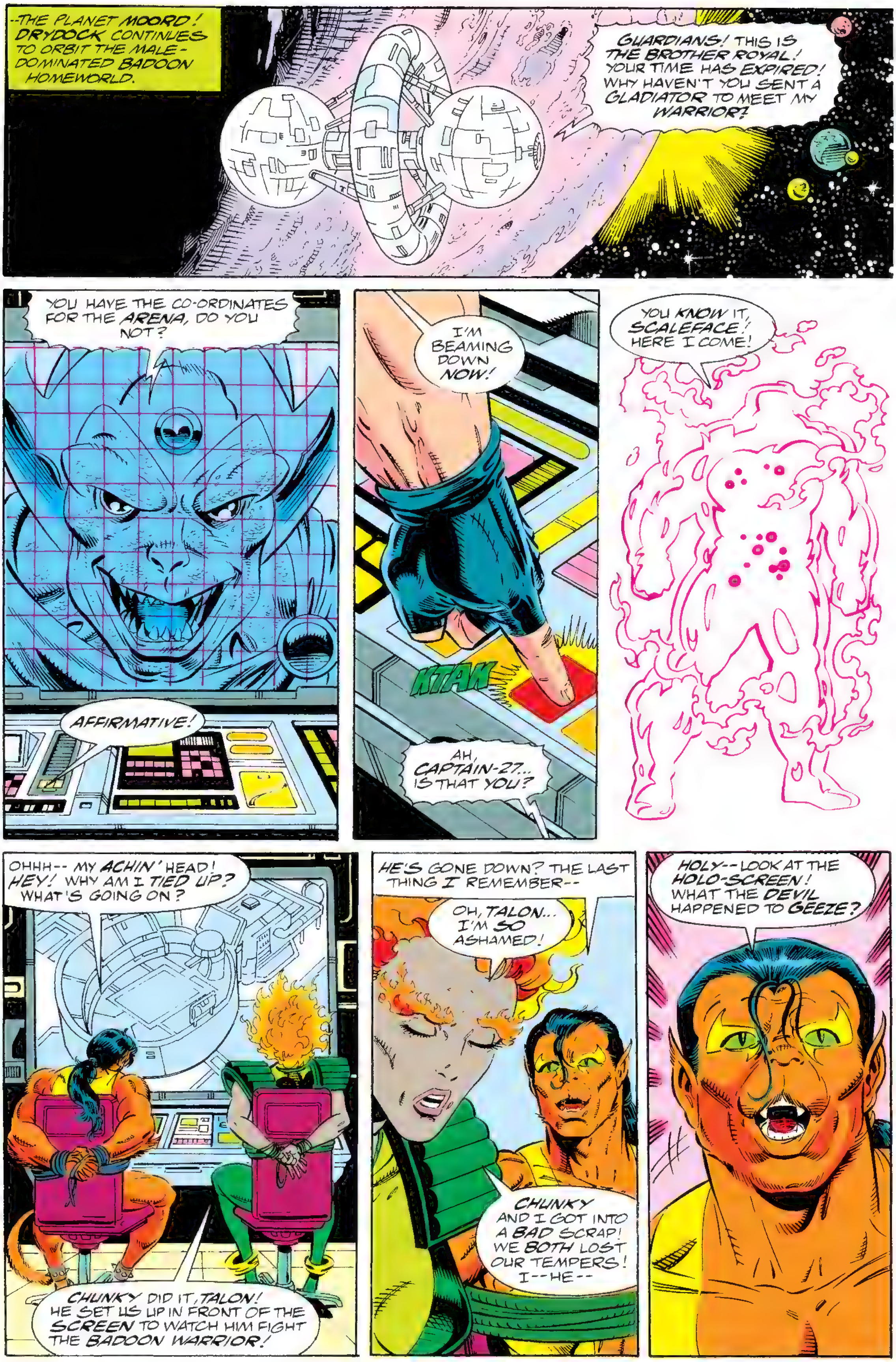

--REALITEE-VEE!
THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF MASS MANIPULATION EVER CONCEIVED!
I DEVELOPED THE TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSMIT A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE ODORLESS GAS ALONG WITH THE AUDIO AND VIDEO SIGNALS!
I "TEST MARKETED" IT AS A FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT. EMPLOYING THE BESTIAL BADOON AS LACKEYS, IT WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS!
UNTIL THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ARRIVED! WORKING WITH THE PARA-MILITARY COMMANDEERS, THEY DESTROYED MY BROADCASTING FACILITY IN THE BRONX!*
* BACK IN ISSUE #20.--CRAIG
RANCOR AND HER LIEUTENANTS ARE NOT REPAIRMEN, DOOM! WE CONQUER AND RULE THROUGH TERROR!
I FAIL TO SEE WHAT ANY OF THIS HAS TO DO WITH US!
INDEED...
...YOU FAIL TO--SEE? AN INTERESTING CHOICE OF WORDS, RANCOR!
FOR YOU NEED NOT SEE TO EXPERIENCE RTV--AS THE BLIND BLOCKADE WILL ATTEST!
NOR CAN A POWERFUL MUTANT BRAIN LIKE MIND-SCAN'S RESIST ITS POWER!
SO, YOUR CHOICE IS RATHER SIMPLE--WORK WITH ME OR SIT HERE IN THRALL UNTIL YOU ROT!
IT IS... VERY... I--I--
SKRAAAAWW

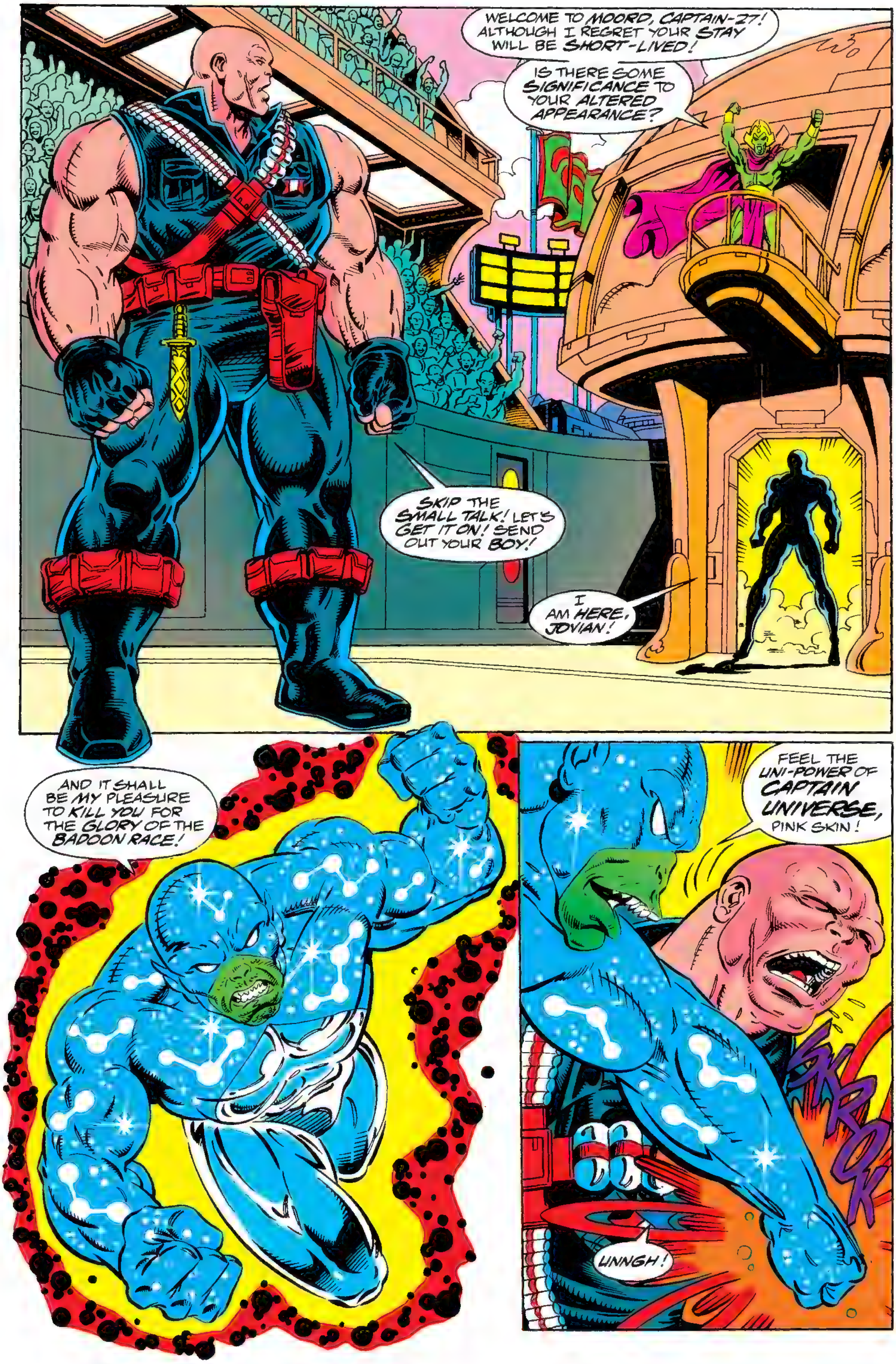

BACK IN THE 20TH CENTURY, IN THE GREENWICH VILLAGE HOME OF DR. STEPHEN STRANGE...
MAJOR VICTORY!
YES? WHAT IS-- :GASP!: A DEMON!
REMAIN CALM, MAJOR! IT IS MERELY MY SERVANT, RINTRAH!
YOUR HERBAL TEA, SIR!
OH, I--UHH--YES... TH-THANKS!
FORGIVE THE INTRUSION! I SHALL LEAVE THE TRAY AND GO ABOUT MY DUTIES!
AS I WAS SAYING, DOCTOR STRANGE... MAJOR VICTORY NEEDS YOUR HELP TO REJOIN HIS FELLOW GUARDIANS ON THE PLANET MOORD!
I UNDERSTAND, CAPTAIN AMERICA! HOWEVER, I AM RELUCTANT!
BUT WHY? YOU CERTAINLY HAVE THE CAPABILITY!
OF COURSE! BUT, THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVERSE SUCH A DISTANCE AT THE SPEED YOU REQUIRE IS TO JOURNEY THROUGH THE DARK DIMENSION!

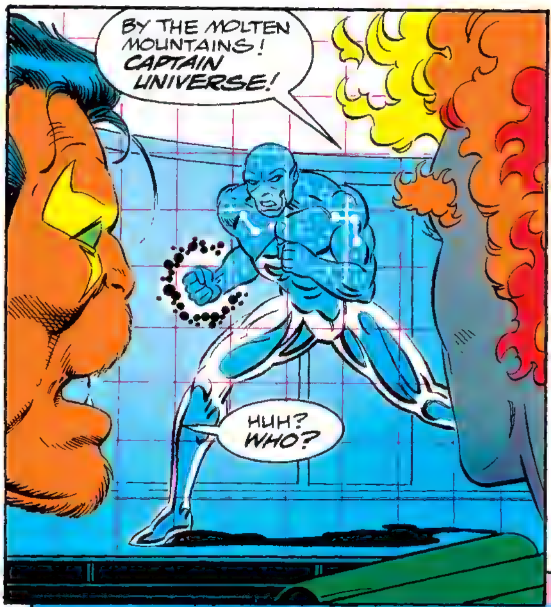

AND THAT IS A PLACE FRAUGHT WITH UNIMAGINABLE DANGER!
THEREFORE, I MUST SAY "NO" TO YOU!
BUT YOU CAN'T TURN ME DOWN! MY TEAM-MATES NEED ME! I CAN FEEL IT!
PLEASE HELP ME, OH ANCIENT ONE!
MAN OF THE FUTURE! DID YOU CALL ME--
NEVER HAVE I BEEN ADDRESSED THUS!
THEREFORE, LET MY AMULET OPEN...
...REVEALING THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO!
OUR MINDS SHALL BE AS ONE, MAJOR!
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! IT IS TRUE! IN YOUR FUTURE, I AM AS MY MASTER WAS BEFORE ME!*
* NEVER FORGET THAT THE GUARDIANS' TIMELINE DIVERGED FROM THE MAINSTREAM MARVEL UNIVERSE IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #69.--CRAIG

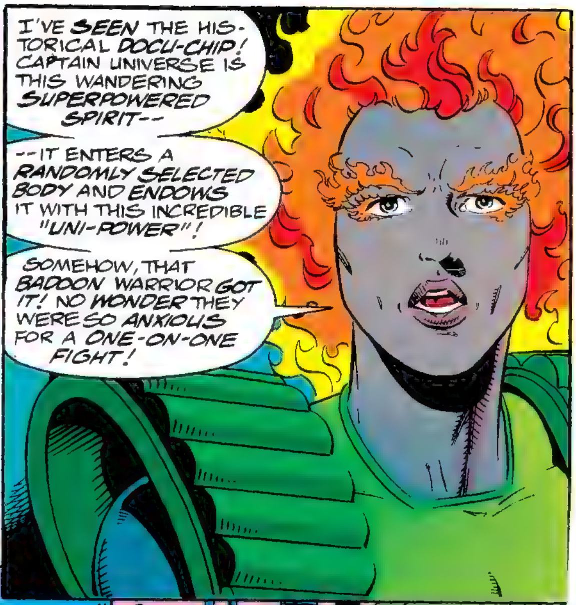

AND I SENSE A PREORDAINED DESTINY THAT NEGATES MY EARLIER REFUSAL! I SHALL TAKE YOU TO MOORD, MAJOR!
THANK YOU, DR. STRANGE! I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!
CAP, SPENDING TIME WITH YOU HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME! I PROMISE TO UPHOLD THE HONOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE SHIELD!
I'M FLATTERED, SON! BUT REMEMBER--IT'S THE MAN WHO CARRIES IT, NOT THE SHIELD ITSELF THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!
WHAT'S THIS YOU HANDED ME?
WHILE I WAS AT AVENGERS MANSION, I CHECKED UP ON MY YOUNGER SELF --VANCE ASTRO OF THE NEW WARRIORS!
I SAW HE WAS IN SOME TROUBLE, SO I MADE HIM THIS LASER DISKETTE--
IF YOU CAN, CAP...GET IT TO HIM FOR ME!
PREPARE YOURSELF, MAJOR VICTORY! FOR, BY THE ETERNAL VISHANTI, I NOW OPEN THE PORTAL TO THE DARK DIMENSION!
AND MAY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORACK GUIDE AND DELIVER US!
HARKOV'S BONES!

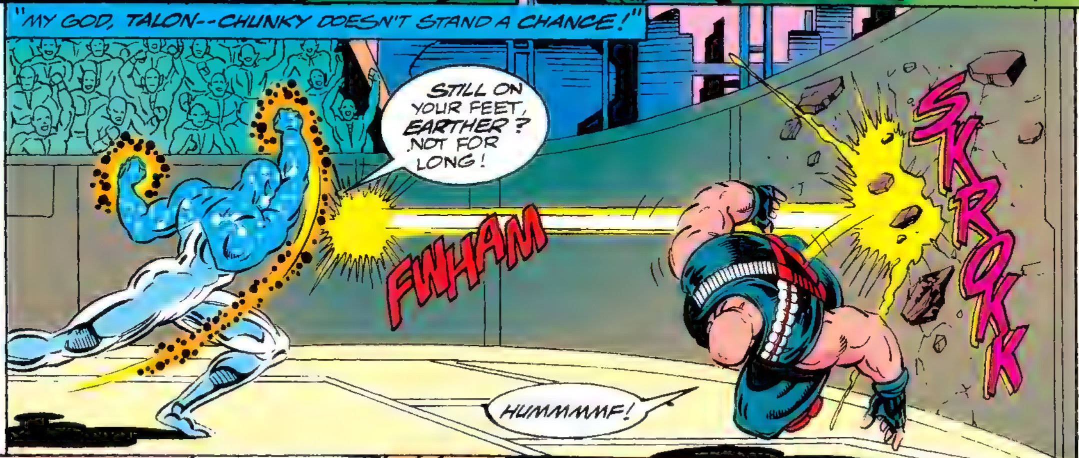

DR. STRANGE! IT'S OVERPOWERING! MY MIND--I--I--
DO NOT LET THE SURREALISTIC SURROUNDINGS SAP YOUR SANITY, MAJOR! RETAIN YOUR FOCUS OR ALL WILL BE LOST!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR! I'M OKAY NOW... SORRY!
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE! THE DARK DIMENSION'S VERY EXISTENCE IS PREDICATED ON A DISTORTED INVERSION OF REALITY!
INSIDE THIS REALM, IT CAN TRULY BE SAID THAT ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!
LITTLE DOES THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS REALIZE HOW PROPHETIC HIS WORDS ARE...
...FOR AS THEY PASS A SEEMINGLY OBSCURE CONSTRUCT, SOMETHING STIRS WITHIN!
IN THE WAKE OF THE SORCEROR SUPREME, A LONG DORMANT ENTITY IS AROUSED INTO CONSCIOUS THOUGHT--
--A FIRE BORN OF PURE HATRED SMOULDERS! AN EVIL ESSENCE ASSEMBLES ITSELF--
--ACHIEVING FORM AND SUBSTANCE, IT LIVES! AND BEGINS TO PURSUE OUR HEROES AS THEY CONTINUE TOWARDS--

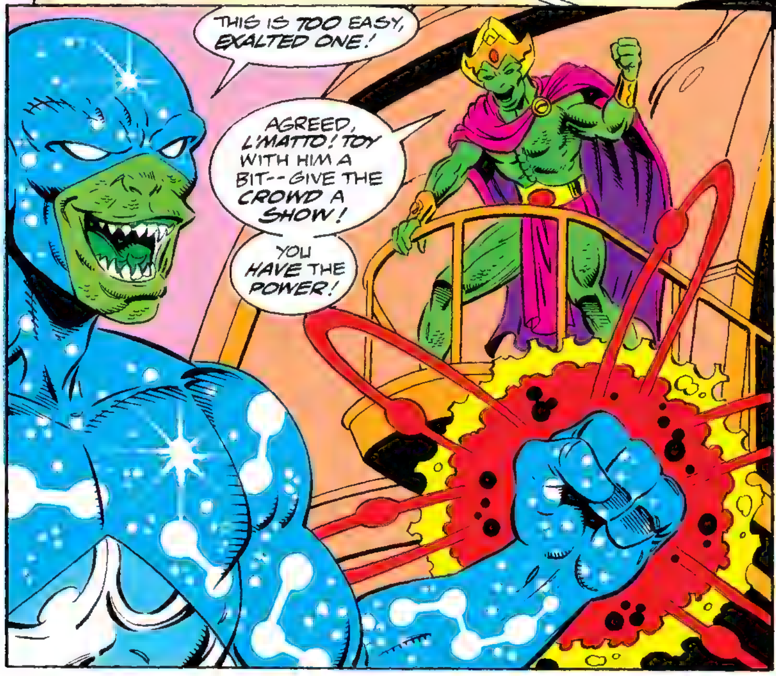

--THE PLANET MOORD! DRYDOCK CONTINUES TO ORBIT THE MALE-DOMINATED BADOON HOMEWORLD.
GUARDIANS! THIS IS THE BROTHER ROYAL! YOUR TIME HAS EXPIRED! WHY HAVEN'T YOU SENT A GLADIATOR TO MEET MY WARRIOR?
YOU HAVE THE CO-ORDINATES FOR THE ARENA, DO YOU NOT?
AFFIRMATIVE!
I'M BEAMING DOWN NOW!
KTAK
AH, CAPTAIN-27... IS THAT YOU?
YOU KNOW IT, SCALEFACE! HERE I COME!
OHHH-- MY ACHIN' HEAD! HEY! WHY AM I TIED UP? WHAT'S GOING ON?
CHUNKY DID IT, TALON! HE SET US UP IN FRONT OF THE SCREEN TO WATCH HIM FIGHT THE BADOON WARRIOR!
HE'S GONE DOWN? THE LAST THING I REMEMBER--
OH, TALON... I'M SO ASHAMED!
CHUNKY AND I GOT INTO A BAD SCRAP! WE BOTH LOST OUR TEMPERS! I--HE--
HOLY--LOOK AT THE HOLO-SCREEN! WHAT THE DEVIL HAPPENED TO GEEZE?

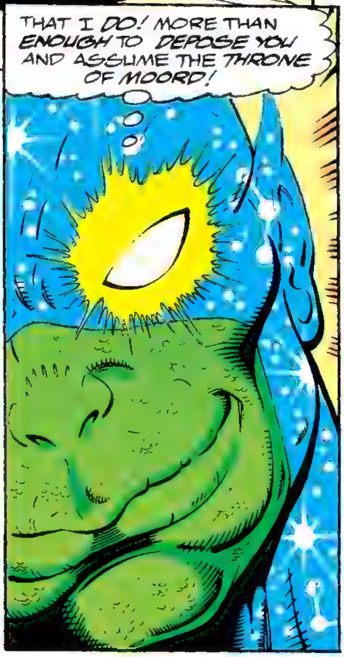

WELCOME TO MOORD, CAPTAIN-27! ALTHOUGH I REGRET YOUR STAY WILL BE SHORT-LIVED!
IS THERE SOME SIGNIFICANCE TO YOUR ALTERED APPEARANCE?
SKIP THE SMALL TALK! LET'S GET IT ON! SEND OUT YOUR BOY!
I AM HERE, JOVIAN!
AND IT SHALL BE MY PLEASURE TO KILL YOU FOR THE GLORY OF THE BADOON RACE!
FEEL THE UNI-POWER OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE, PINK SKIN!
SKROK
UNNGH!

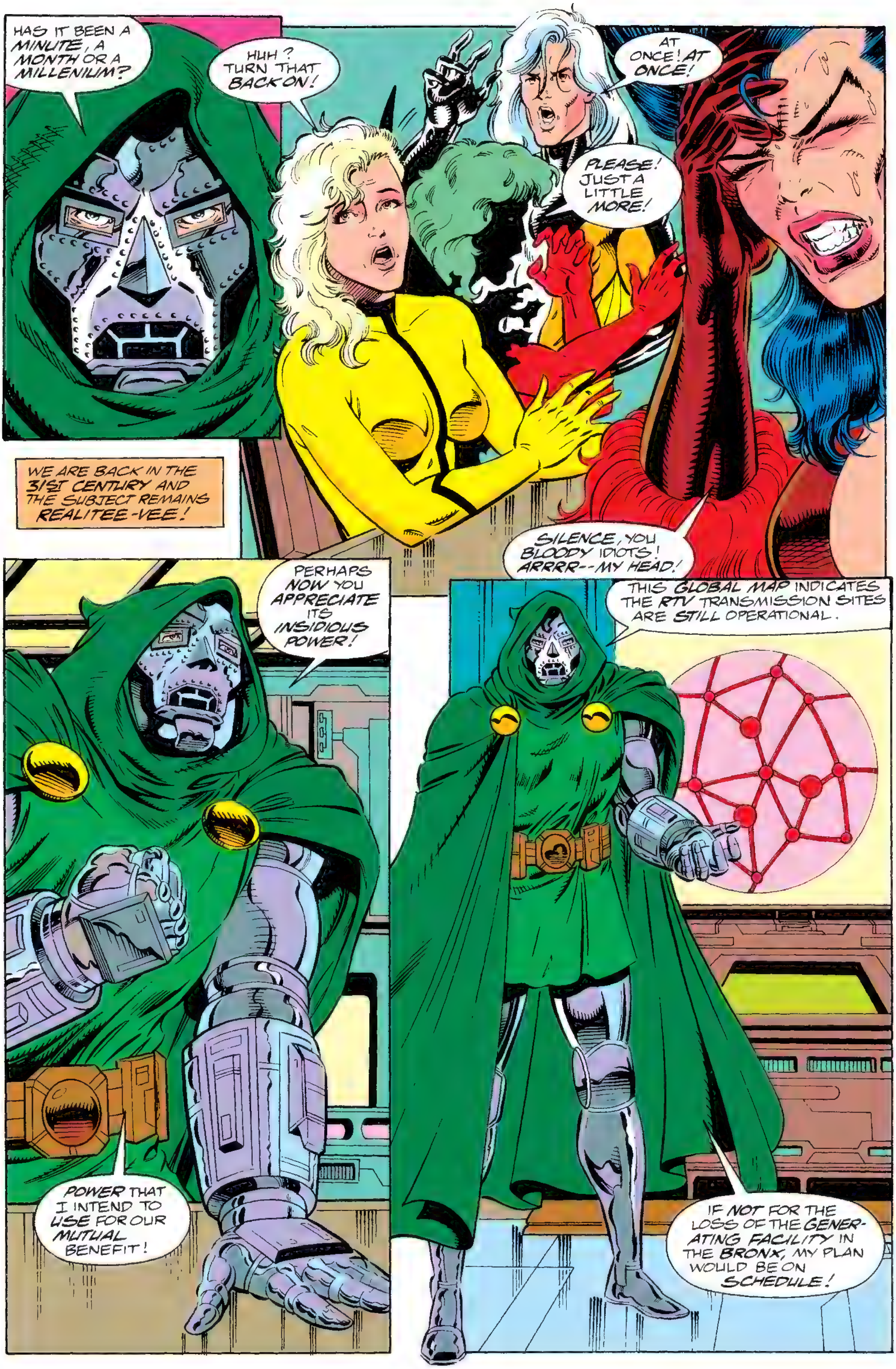

BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS! CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!
HUH? WHO?

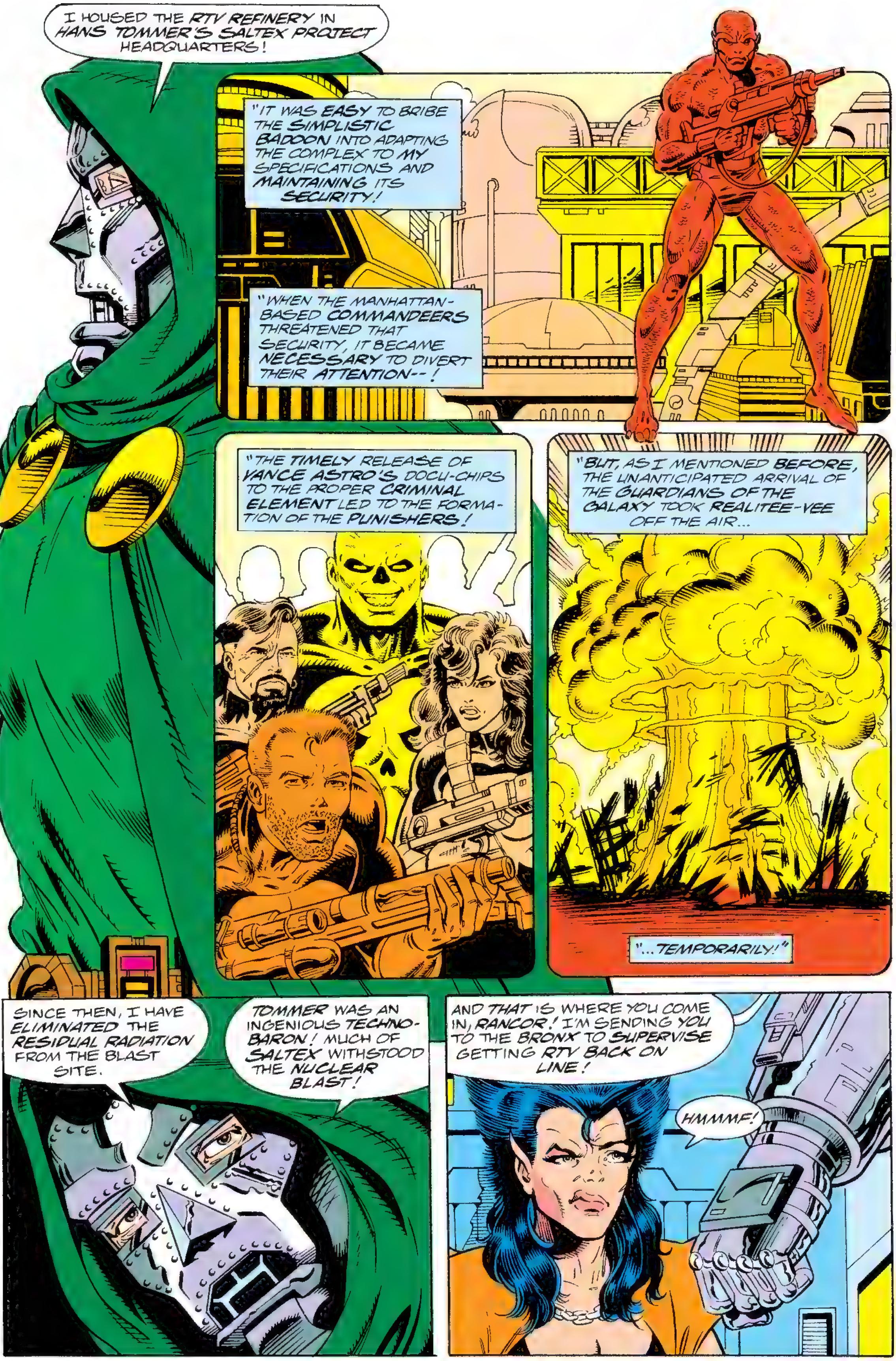

I'VE SEEN THE HISTORICAL DOCU-CHIP! CAPTAIN UNIVERSE IS THIS WANDERING SUPERPOWERED SPIRIT--
--IT ENTERS A RANDOMLY SELECTED BODY AND ENDOWS IT WITH THIS INCREDIBLE "UNI-POWER"!
SOMEHOW, THAT BADOON WARRIOR GOT IT! NO WONDER THEY WERE SO ANXIOUS FOR A ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT!

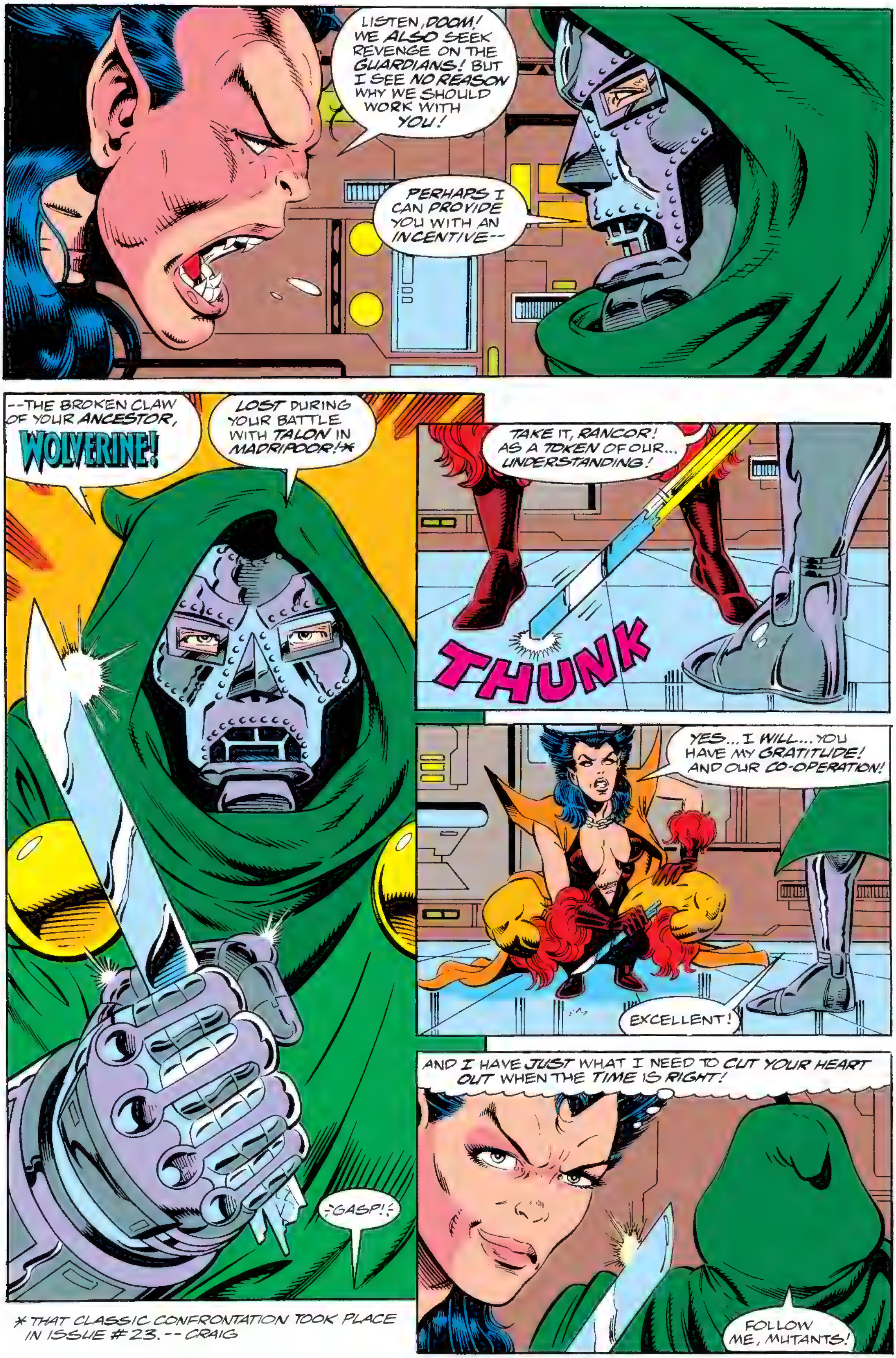

"MY GOD, TALON--CHUNKY DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!"
STILL ON YOUR FEET, EARTHER? NOT FOR LONG!
FWHAM
SKROKK
HUMMMMF!


THIS IS TOO EASY, EXALTED ONE!
AGREED, L'MATTO! TOY WITH HIM A BIT--GIVE THE CROWD A SHOW!
YOU HAVE THE POWER!

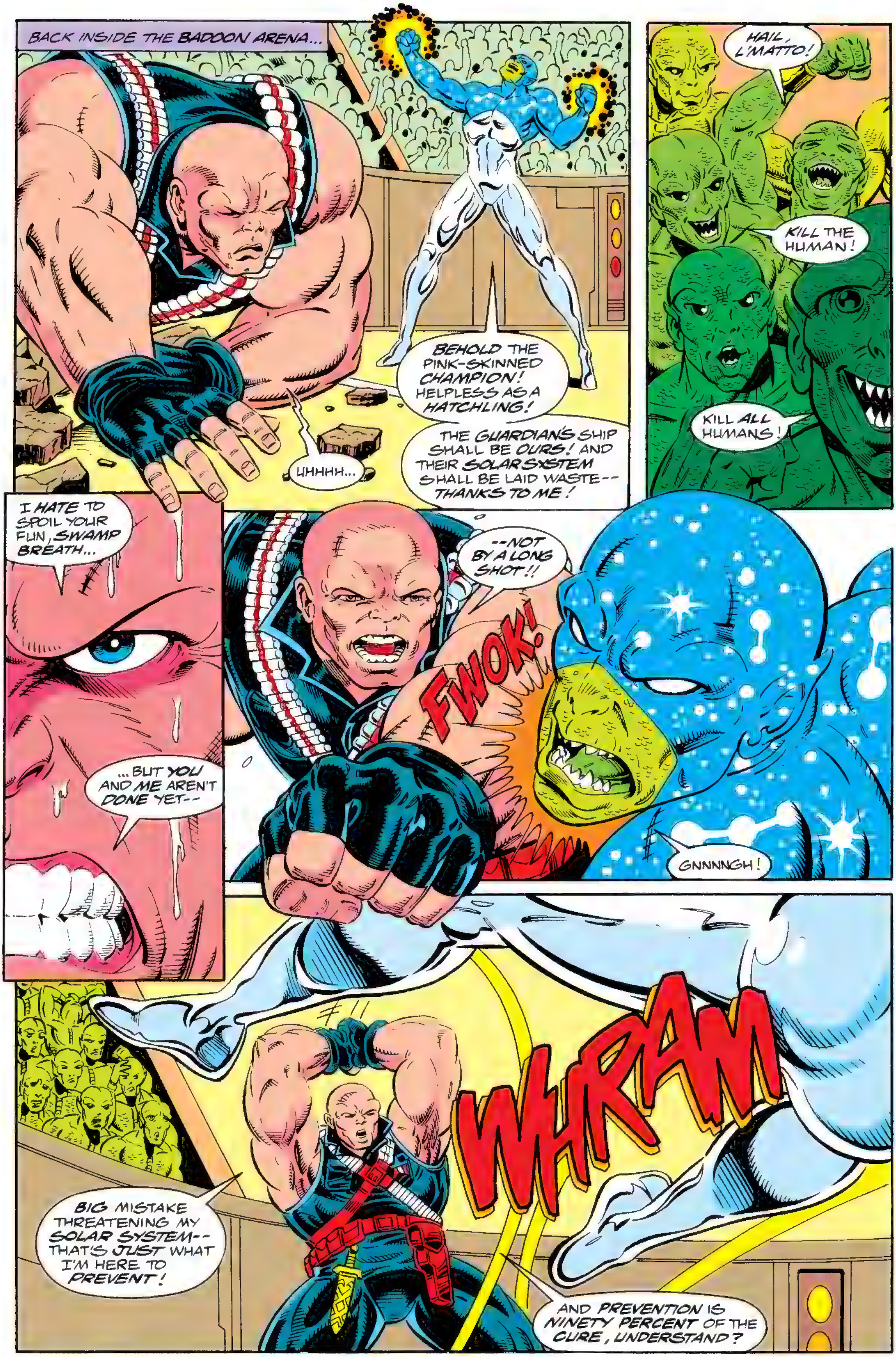

THAT I DO! MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEPOSE YOU AND ASSUME THE THRONE OF MOORD!

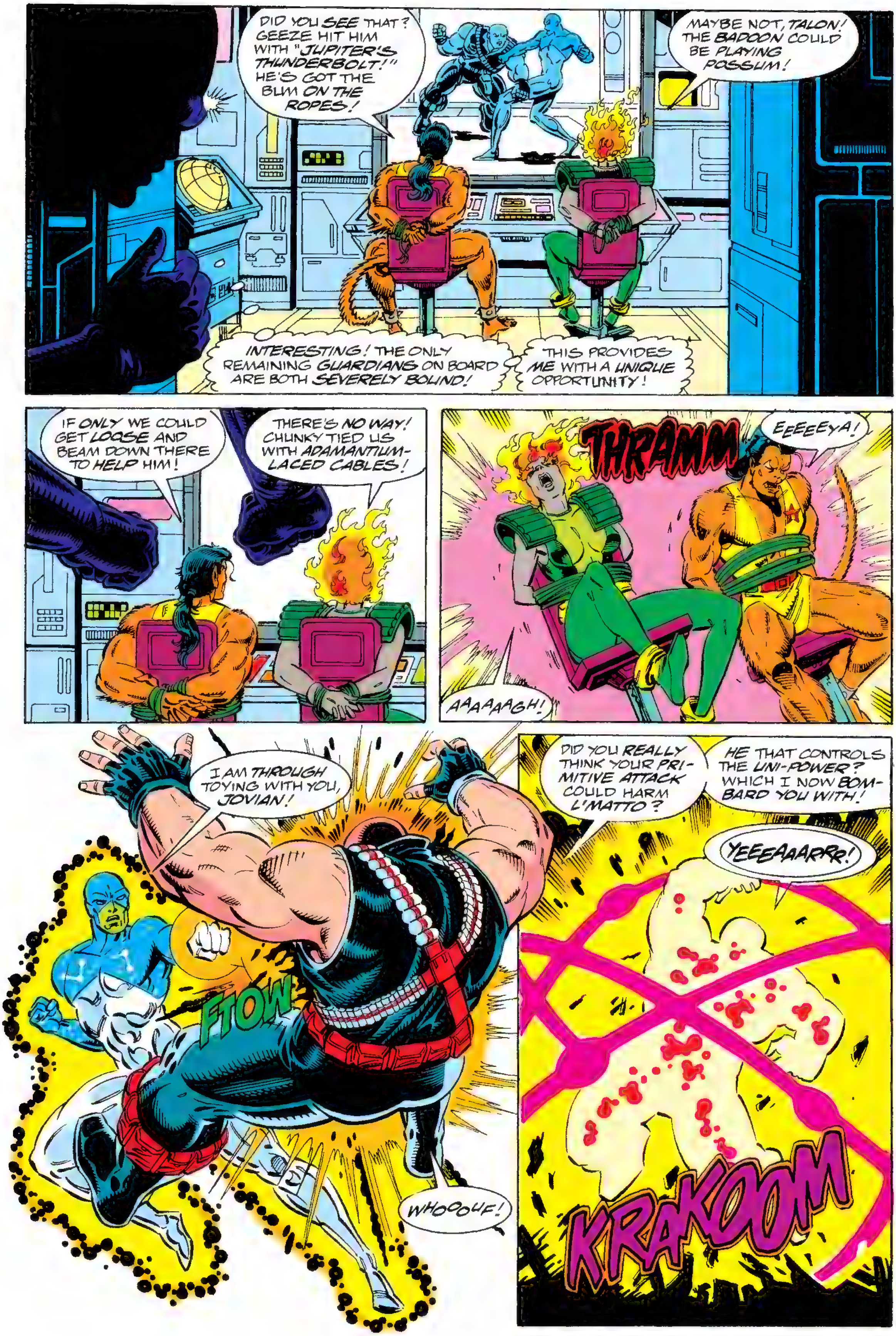

HAS IT BEEN A MINUTE, A MONTH OR A MILLENIUM?
HUH? TURN THAT BACK ON!
AT ONCE! AT ONCE!
PLEASE! JUST A LITTLE MORE!
SILENCE, YOU BLOODY IDIOTS! ARRRR--MY HEAD!
WE ARE BACK IN THE 31ST CENTURY AND THE SUBJECT REMAINS REALITEE-VEE!
PERHAPS NOW YOU APPRECIATE ITS INSIDIOUS POWER!
POWER THAT I INTEND TO USE FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT!
THIS GLOBAL MAP INDICATES THE RTV TRANSMISSION SITES ARE STILL OPERATIONAL.
IF NOT FOR THE LOSS OF THE GENERATING FACILITY IN THE BRONX, MY PLAN WOULD BE ON SCHEDULE!

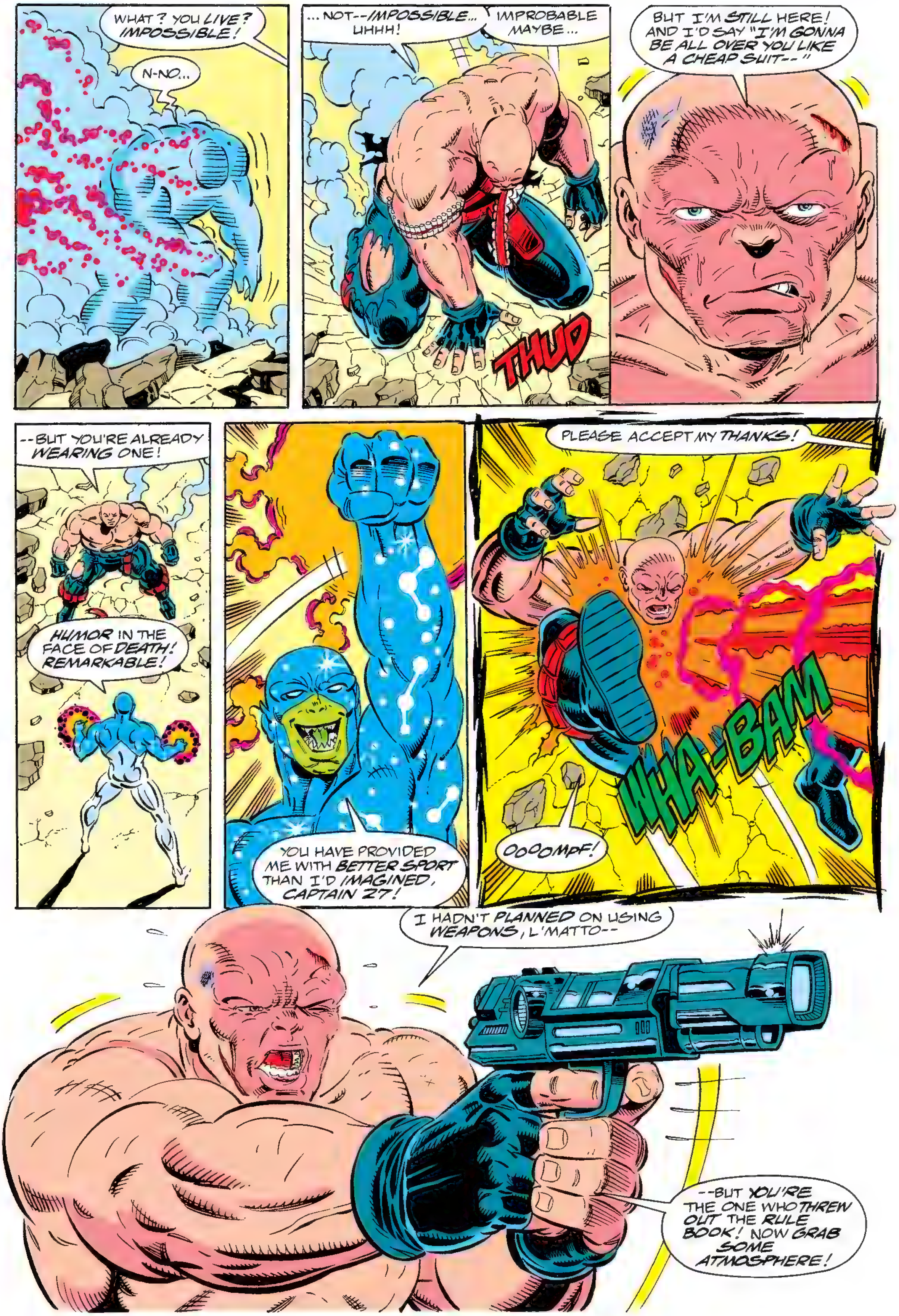

I HOUSED THE RTV REFINERY IN HANS TOMMER'S SALTEX PROJECT HEADQUARTERS!
"IT WAS EASY TO BRIBE THE SIMPLISTIC BADOON INTO ADAPTING THE COMPLEX TO MY SPECIFICATIONS AND MAINTAINING ITS SECURITY!
"WHEN THE MANHATTAN-BASED COMMANDEERS THREATENED THAT SECURITY, IT BECAME NECESSARY TO DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION--!
"THE TIMELY RELEASE OF VANCE ASTRO'S DOCU-CHIPS TO THE PROPER CRIMINAL ELEMENT LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE PUNISHERS!
"BUT, AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, THE UNANTICIPATED ARRIVAL OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY TOOK REALITEE-VEE OFF THE AIR...
"...TEMPORARILY!"
SINCE THEN, I HAVE ELIMINATED THE RESIDUAL RADIATION FROM THE BLAST SITE.
TOMMER WAS AN INGENIOUS TECHNO-BARON! MUCH OF SALTEX WITHSTOOD THE NUCLEAR BLAST!
AND THAT IS WHERE YOU COME IN, RANCOR! I'M SENDING YOU TO THE BRONX TO SUPERVISE GETTING RTV BACK ON LINE!
HMMMF!

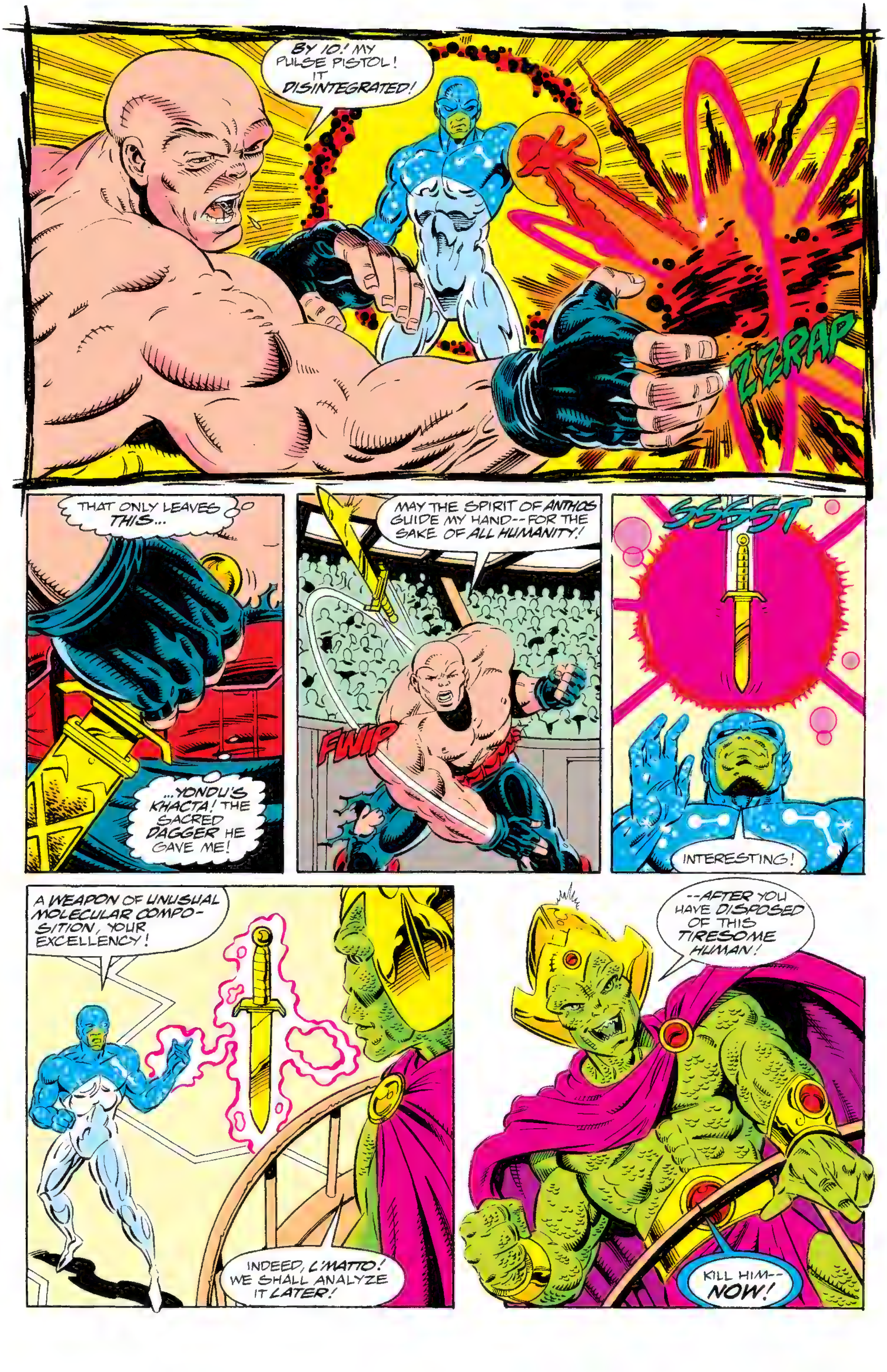

LISTEN, DOOM! WE ALSO SEEK REVENGE ON THE GUARDIANS! BUT I SEE NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD WORK WITH YOU!
PERHAPS I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH AN INCENTIVE--
--THE BROKEN CLAW OF YOUR ANCESTOR, WOLVERINE!
LOST DURING YOUR BATTLE WITH TALON IN MADRIPOOR!*
GASP!
TAKE IT, RANCOR! AS A TOKEN OF OUR... UNDERSTANDING!
THUNK
YES... I WILL... YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE! AND OUR CO-OPERATION!
EXCELLENT!
AND I HAVE JUST WHAT I NEED TO CUT YOUR HEART OUT WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT!
FOLLOW ME, MUTANTS!

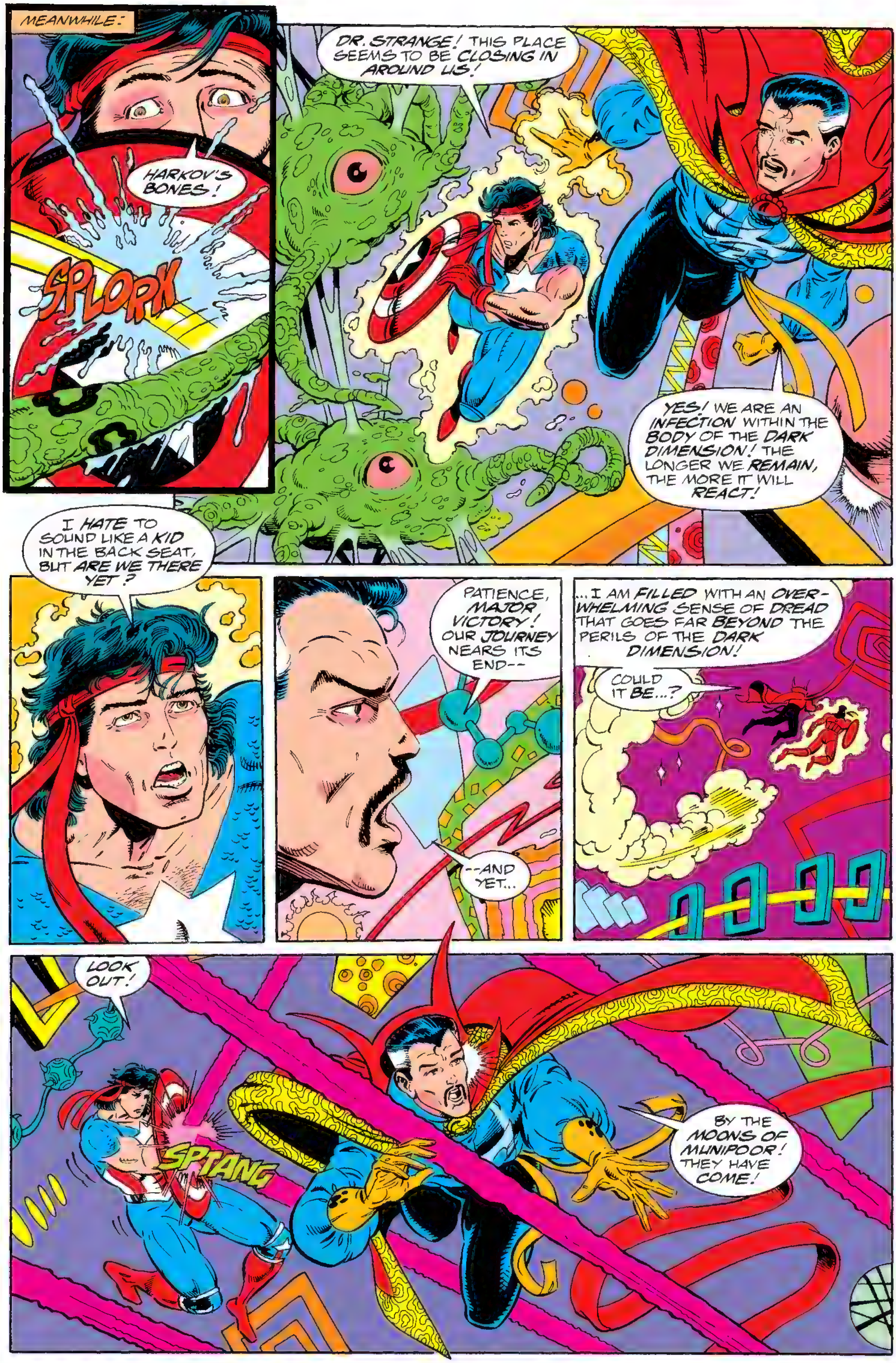
* THAT CLASSIC CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE IN ISSUE #23. --CRAIG

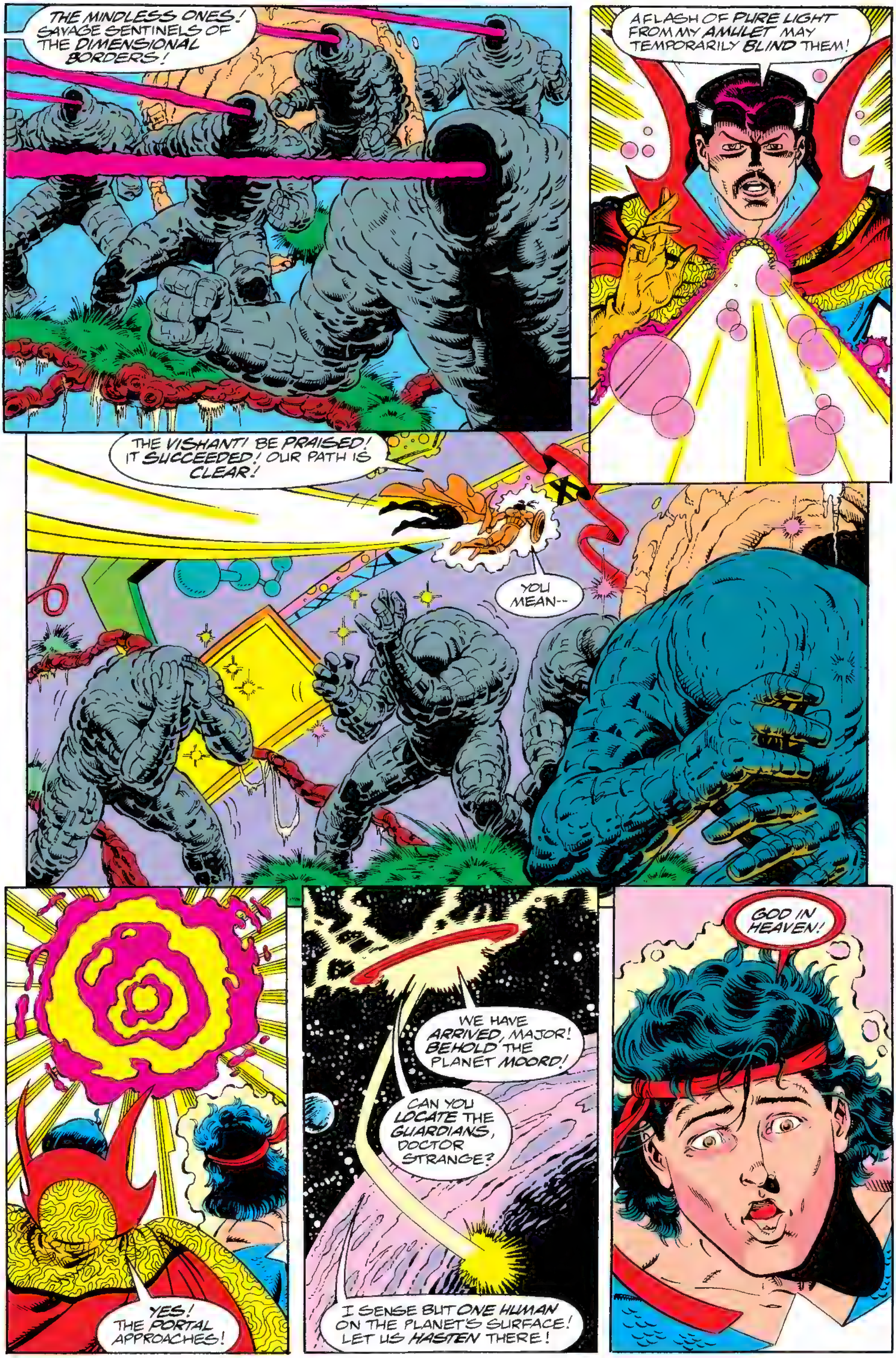

BACK INSIDE THE BADOON ARENA...
BEHOLD THE PINK-SKINNED CHAMPION! HELPLESS AS A HATCHLING!
UHHHH...
THE GUARDIAN'S SHIP SHALL BE OURS! AND THEIR SOLAR SYSTEM SHALL BE LAID WASTE-- THANKS TO ME!
HAIL, L'MATTO!
KILL THE HUMAN!
KILL ALL HUMANS!
I HATE TO SPOIL YOUR FUN, SWAMP BREATH...
...BUT YOU AND ME AREN'T DONE YET--
--NOT BY A LONG SHOT!!
FWOK!
GNNNNGH!
WHAM
BIG MISTAKE THREATENING MY SOLAR SYSTEM-- THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M HERE TO PREVENT!
AND PREVENTION IS NINETY PERCENT OF THE CURE, UNDERSTAND?

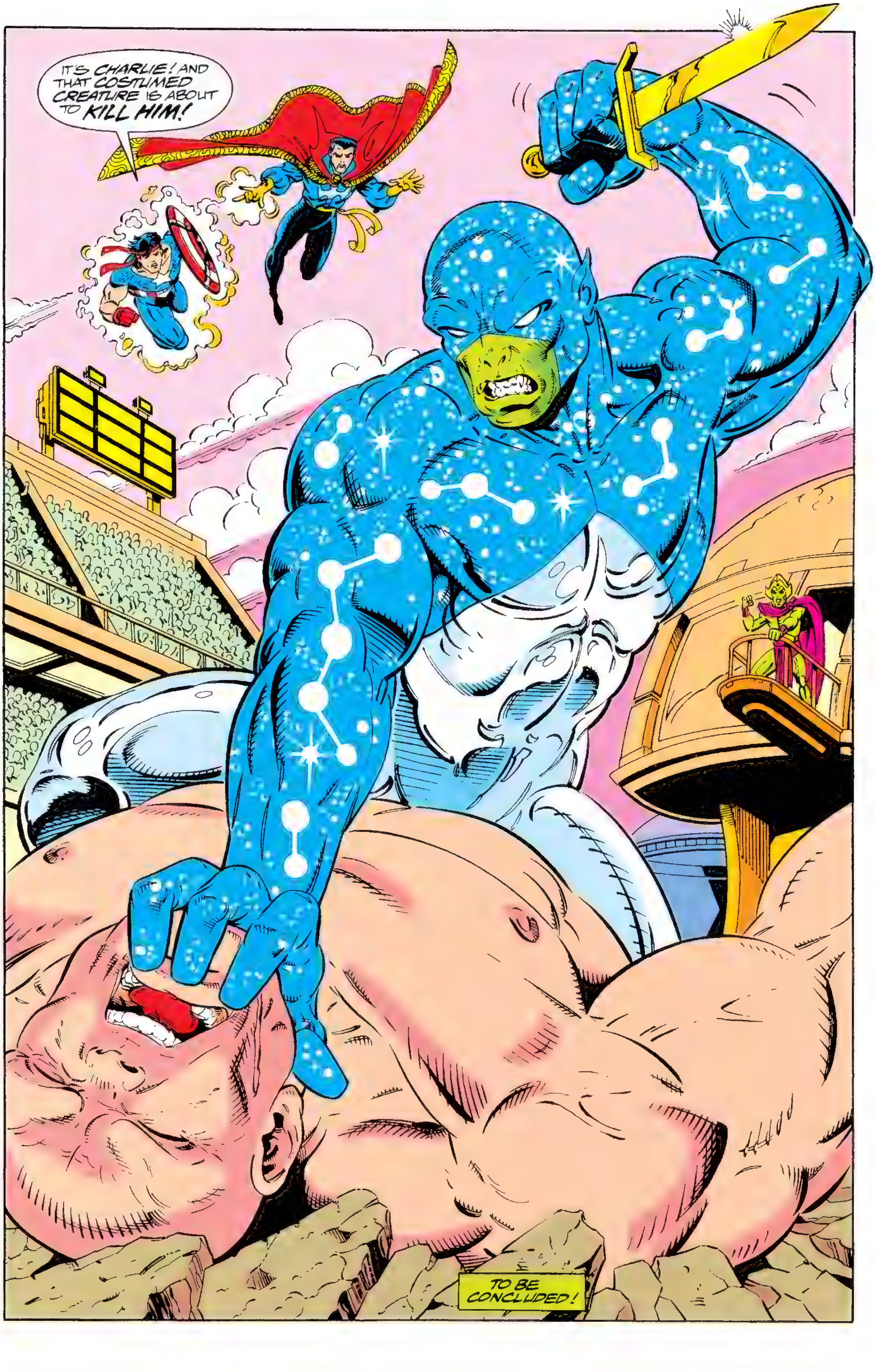

DID YOU SEE THAT? GEEZE HIT HIM WITH "JUPITER'S THUNDERBOLT!" HE'S GOT THE BUM ON THE ROPES!
MAYBE NOT, TALON! THE BADOON COULD BE PLAYING POSSUM!
INTERESTING! THE ONLY REMAINING GUARDIANS ON BOARD ARE BOTH SEVERELY BOUND!
THIS PROVIDES ME WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!
IF ONLY WE COULD GET LOOSE AND BEAM DOWN THERE TO HELP HIM!
THERE'S NO WAY! CHUNKY TIED US WITH ADAMANTIUM-LACED CABLES!
THRAMM
EEEEEYA!
AAAAAAGH!
I AM THROUGH TOYING WITH YOU, JOVIAN!
FTOW
WHOOOUF!
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOUR PRIMITIVE ATTACK COULD HARM L'MATTO?
HE THAT CONTROLS THE UNI-POWER? WHICH I NOW BOMBARD YOU WITH!
YEEEAAARRR!
KRAKOOM

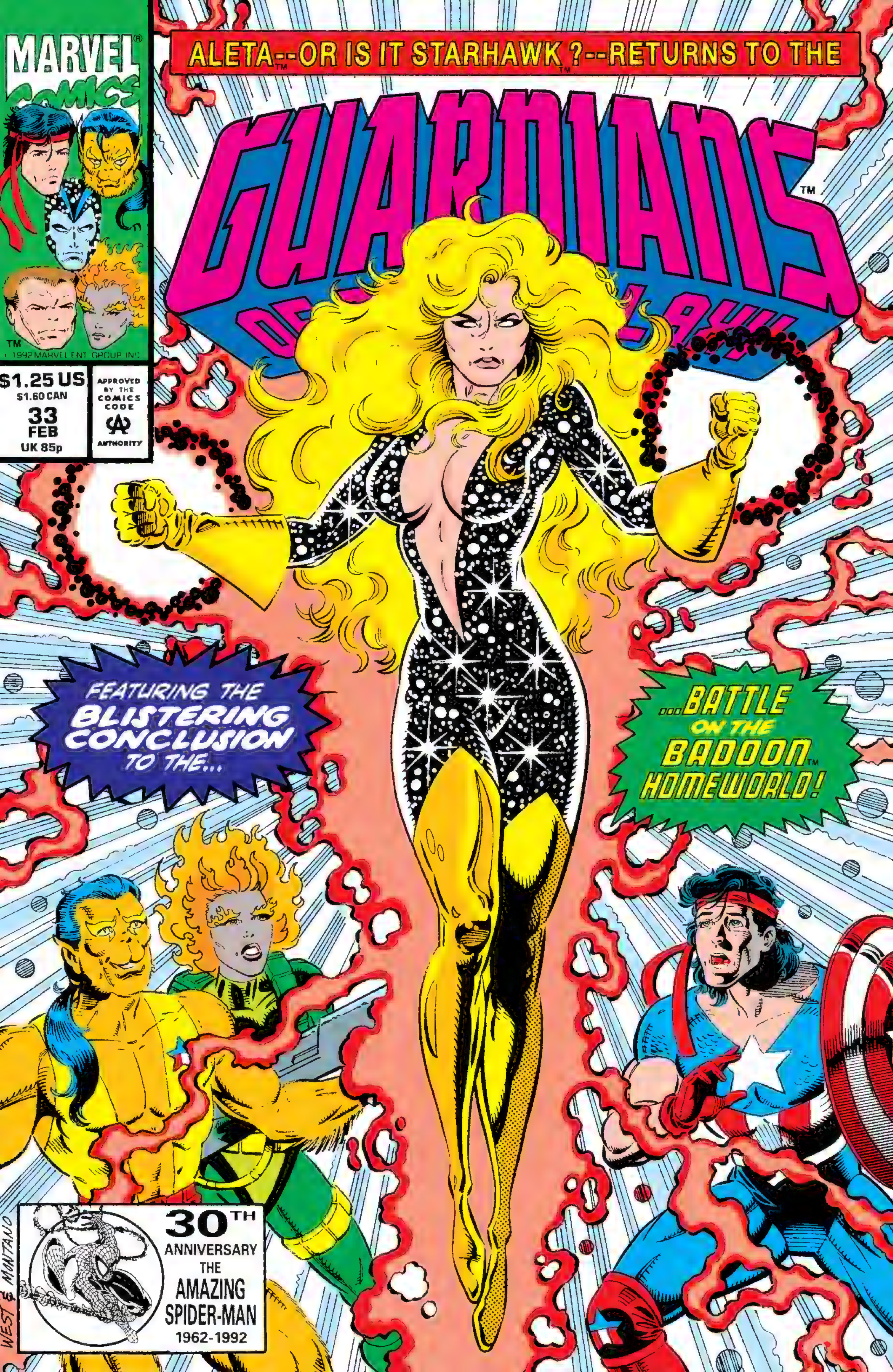

WHAT? YOU LIVE? IMPOSSIBLE!
N-NO...
...NOT--IMPOSSIBLE... UHHH!
IMPROBABLE MAYBE...
THUD
BUT I'M STILL HERE! AND I'D SAY "I'M GONNA BE ALL OVER YOU LIKE A CHEAP SUIT--"
--BUT YOU'RE ALREADY WEARING ONE!
HUMOR IN THE FACE OF DEATH! REMARKABLE!
YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH BETTER SPORT THAN I'D IMAGINED, CAPTAIN 27!
PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS!
WHA-BAM
OOOOMPF!
I HADN'T PLANNED ON USING WEAPONS, L'MATTO--
--BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO THREW OUT THE RULE BOOK! NOW GRAB SOME ATMOSPHERE!


BY IO! MY PULSE PISTOL! IT DISINTEGRATED!
ZZRAP
THAT ONLY LEAVES THIS...
...YONDU'S KHACTA! THE SACRED DAGGER HE GAVE ME!
MAY THE SPIRIT OF ANTHOS GUIDE MY HAND--FOR THE SAKE OF ALL HUMANITY!
FWIP
SSSST
INTERESTING!
A WEAPON OF UNUSUAL MOLECULAR COMPOSITION, YOUR EXCELLENCY!
INDEED, L'MATTO! WE SHALL ANALYZE IT LATER!
--AFTER YOU HAVE DISPOSED OF THIS TIRESOME HUMAN!
KILL HIM--NOW!


MEANWHILE:
HARKOV'S BONES!
SPLORK
DR. STRANGE! THIS PLACE SEEMS TO BE CLOSING IN AROUND US!
YES! WE ARE AN INFECTION WITHIN THE BODY OF THE DARK DIMENSION! THE LONGER WE REMAIN, THE MORE IT WILL REACT!
I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A KID IN THE BACK SEAT, BUT ARE WE THERE YET?
PATIENCE, MAJOR VICTORY! OUR JOURNEY NEARS ITS END--
--AND YET...
...I AM FILLED WITH AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF DREAD THAT GOES FAR BEYOND THE PERILS OF THE DARK DIMENSION!
COULD IT BE...?
LOOK OUT!
SPTANG
BY THE MOONS OF MUNIPOOR! THEY HAVE COME!


THE MINDLESS ONES! SAVAGE SENTINELS OF THE DIMENSIONAL BORDERS!
A FLASH OF PURE LIGHT FROM MY AMULET MAY TEMPORARILY BLIND THEM!
THE VISHANTI BE PRAISED! IT SUCCEEDED! OUR PATH IS CLEAR!
YOU MEAN--
YES! THE PORTAL APPROACHES!
WE HAVE ARRIVED, MAJOR! BEHOLD THE PLANET MOORD!
CAN YOU LOCATE THE GUARDIANS, DOCTOR STRANGE?
I SENSE BUT ONE HUMAN ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE! LET US HASTEN THERE!
GOD IN HEAVEN!


IT'S CHARLIE! AND THAT COSTUMED CREATURE IS ABOUT TO KILL HIM!
TO BE CONCLUDED!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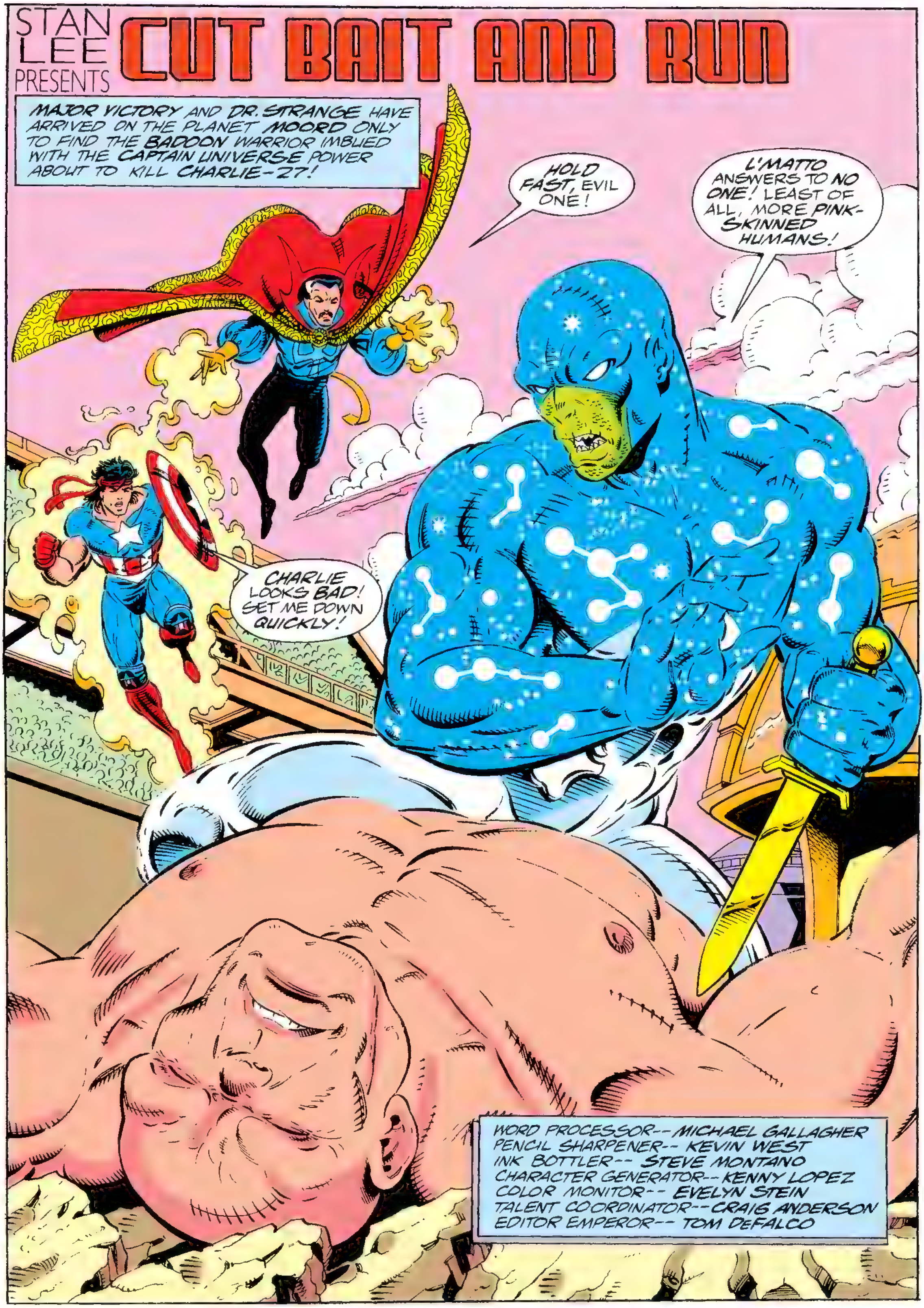
ALETA™--OR IS IT STARHAWK™?--RETURNS TO THE
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY™
FEATURING THE BLISTERING CONCLUSION TO THE...
...BATTLE ON THE BADOON™ HOMEWORLD!
30TH ANNIVERSARY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 1962-1992
WEST & MONTANO


STAN LEE PRESENTS
CUT BAIT AND RUN
MAJOR VICTORY AND DR. STRANGE HAVE ARRIVED ON THE PLANET MOORD ONLY TO FIND THE BADOON WARRIOR IMBUED WITH THE CAPTAIN UNIVERSE POWER ABOUT TO KILL CHARLIE-27!
HOLD FAST, EVIL ONE!
L'MATTO ANSWERS TO NO ONE! LEAST OF ALL, MORE PINK-SKINNED HUMANS!
CHARLIE LOOKS BAD! SET ME DOWN QUICKLY!
WORD PROCESSOR-- MICHAEL GALLAGHER
PENCIL SHARPENER-- KEVIN WEST
INK BOTTLER-- STEVE MONTANO
CHARACTER GENERATOR-- KENNY LOPEZ
COLOR MONITOR-- EVELYN STEIN
TALENT COORDINATOR-- CRAIG ANDERSON
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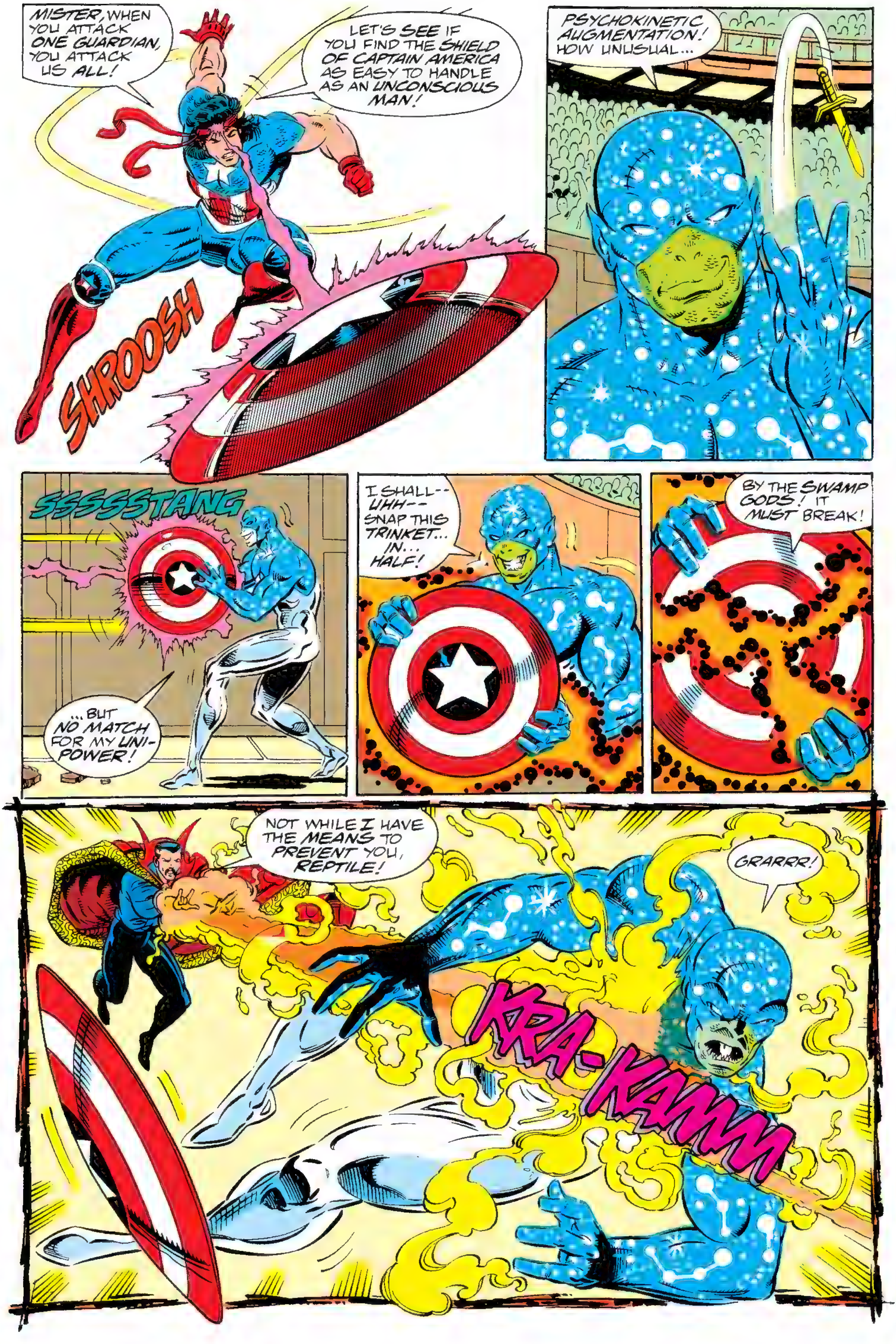
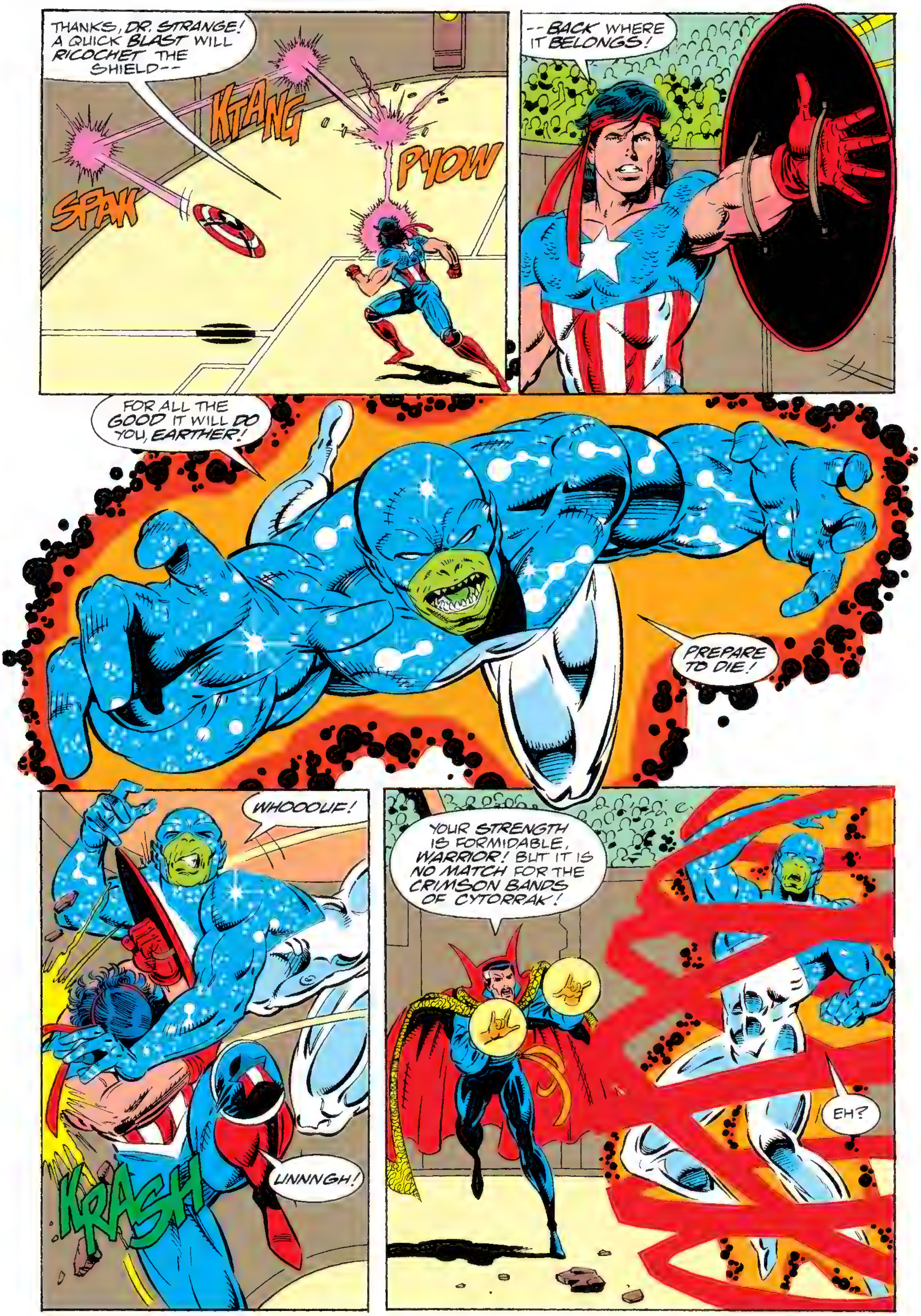
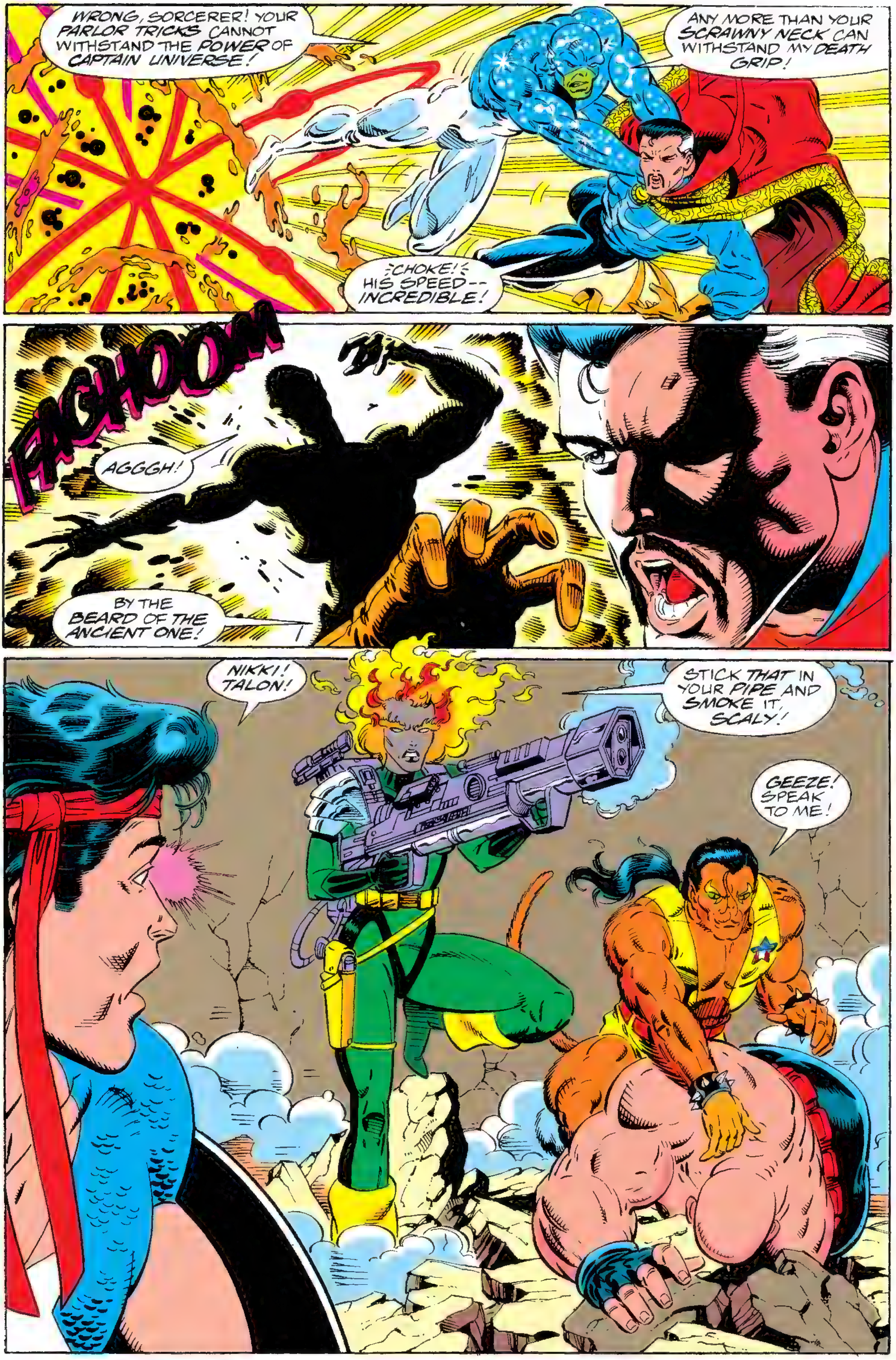
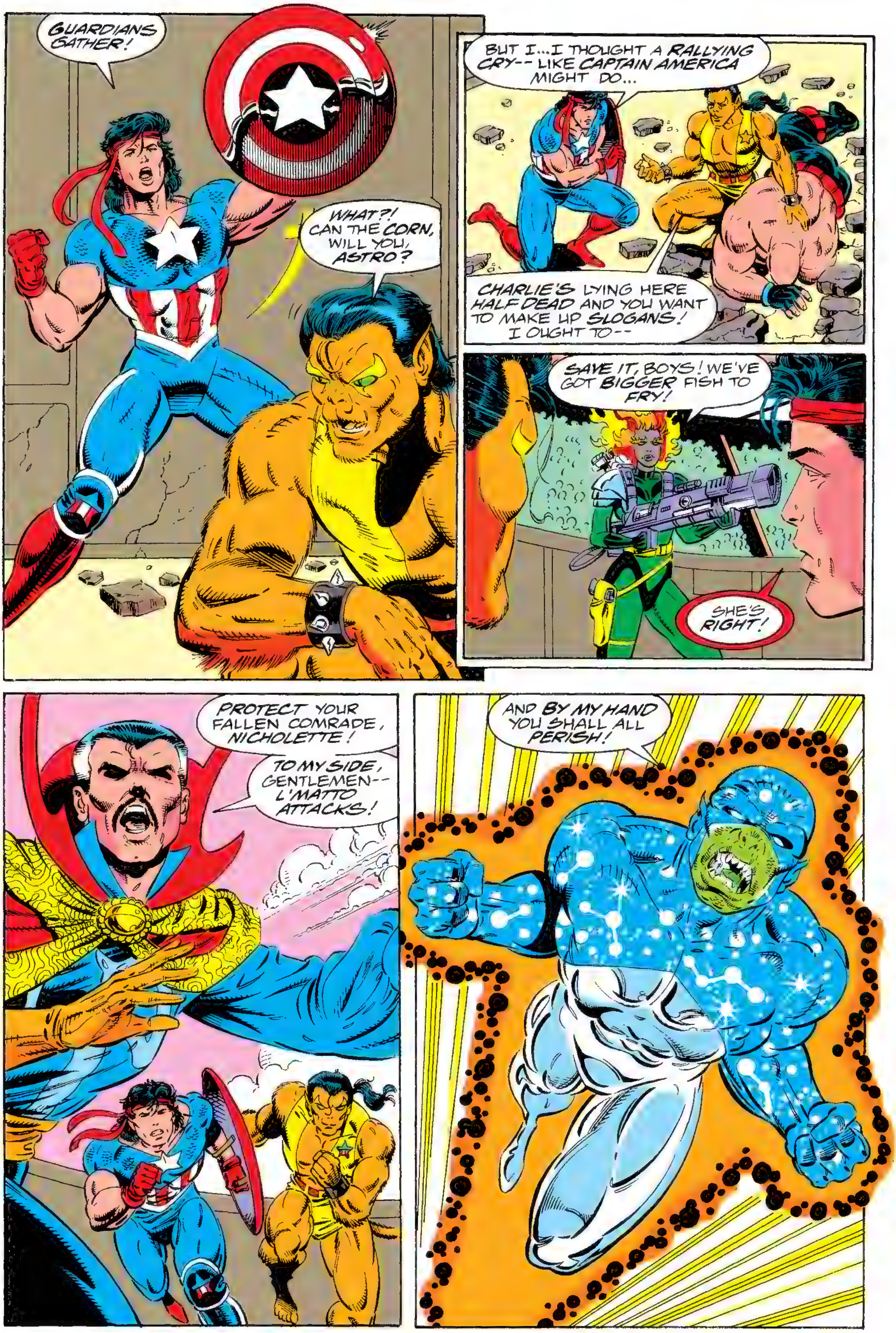
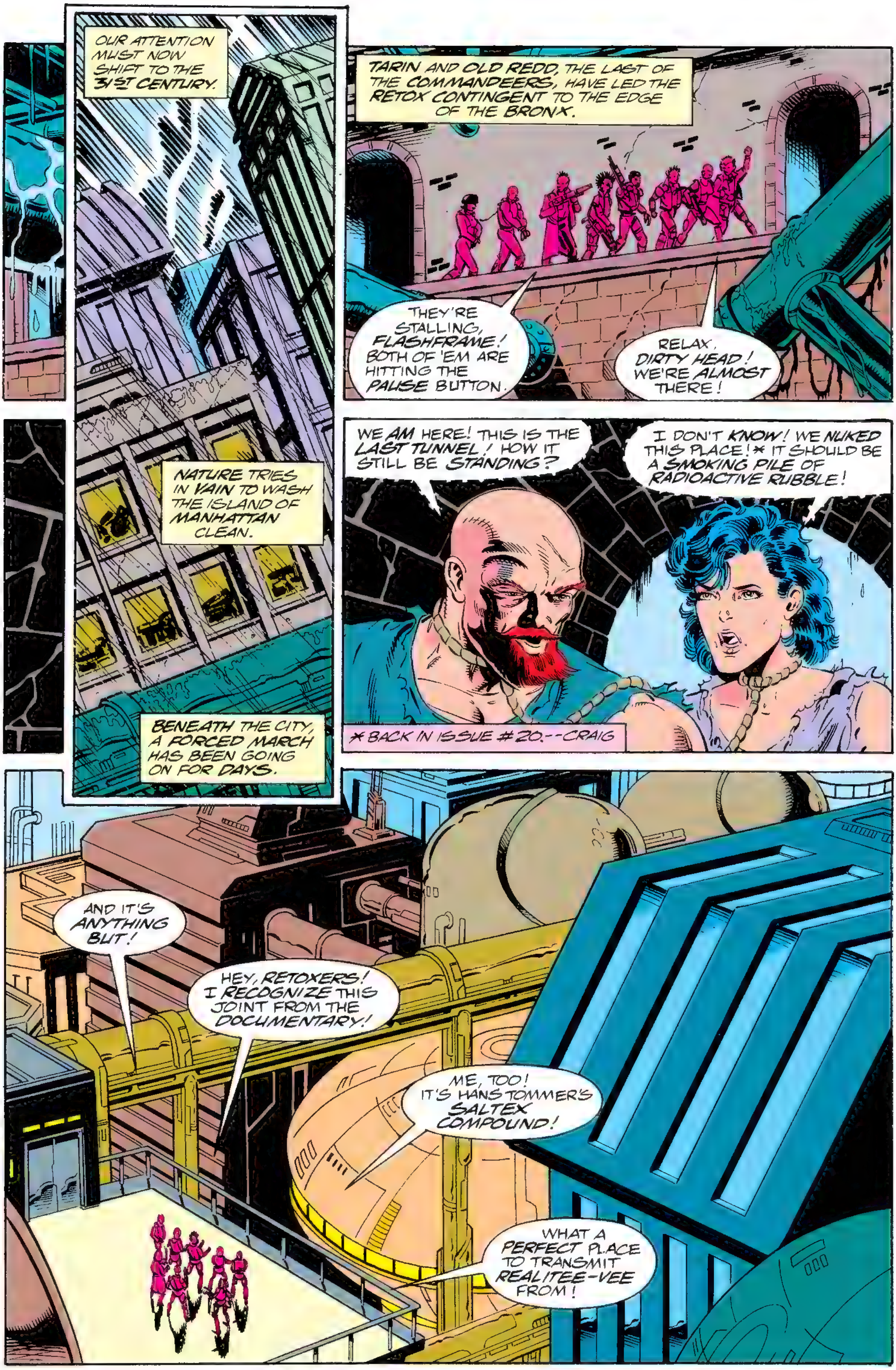
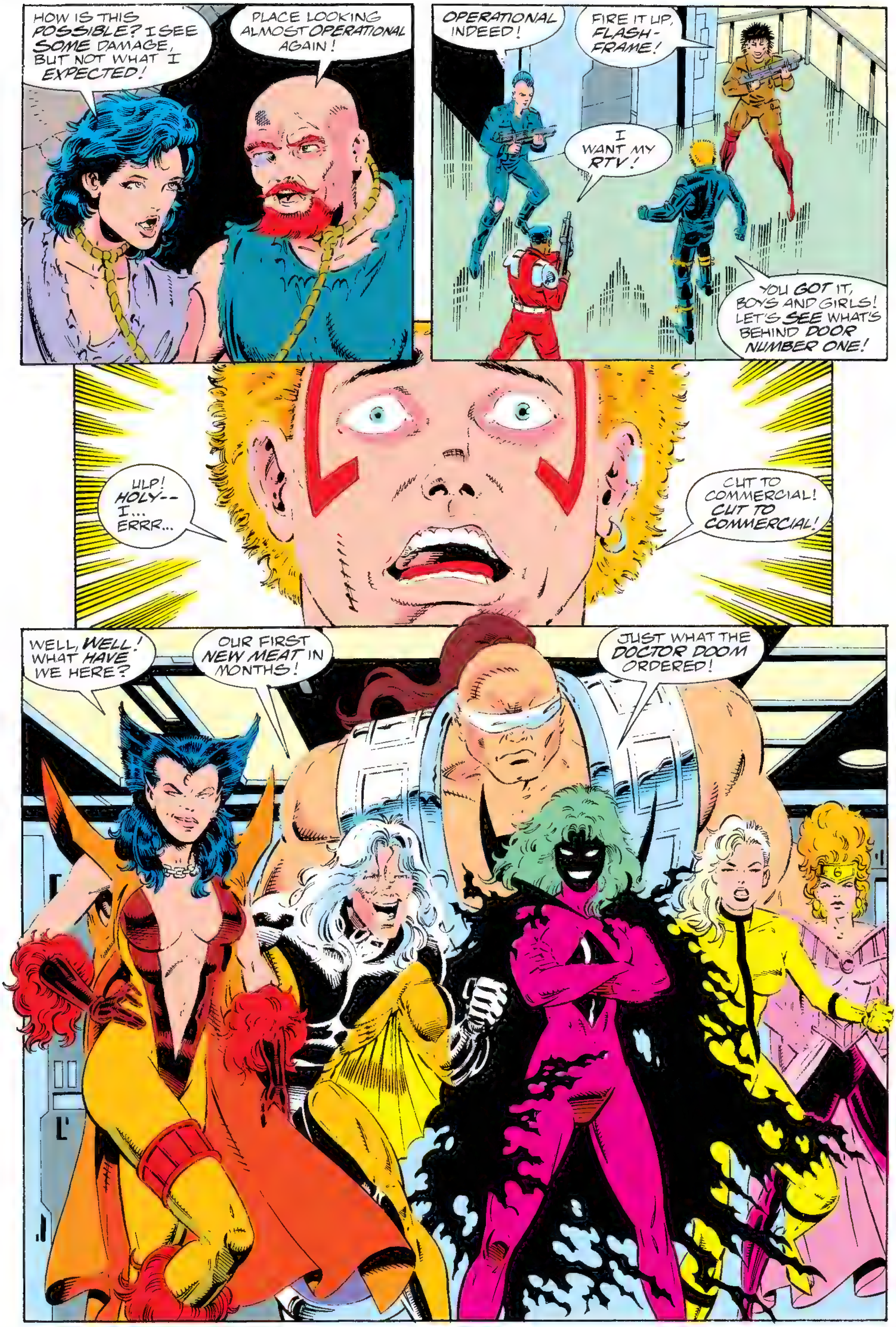

MISTER, WHEN YOU ATTACK ONE GUARDIAN, YOU ATTACK US ALL!
LET'S SEE IF YOU FIND THE SHIELD OF CAPTAIN AMERICA AS EASY TO HANDLE AS AN UNCONSCIOUS MAN!
SHROOSH
PSYCHOKINETIC AUGMENTATION! HOW UNUSUAL...
SSSSSTANG
...BUT NO MATCH FOR MY UNI-POWER!
I SHALL-- UHH-- SNAP THIS TRINKET... IN... HALF!
BY THE SWAMP GODS! IT MUST BREAK!
NOT WHILE I HAVE THE MEANS TO PREVENT YOU, REPTILE!
GRARRR!
KRA-KAMM

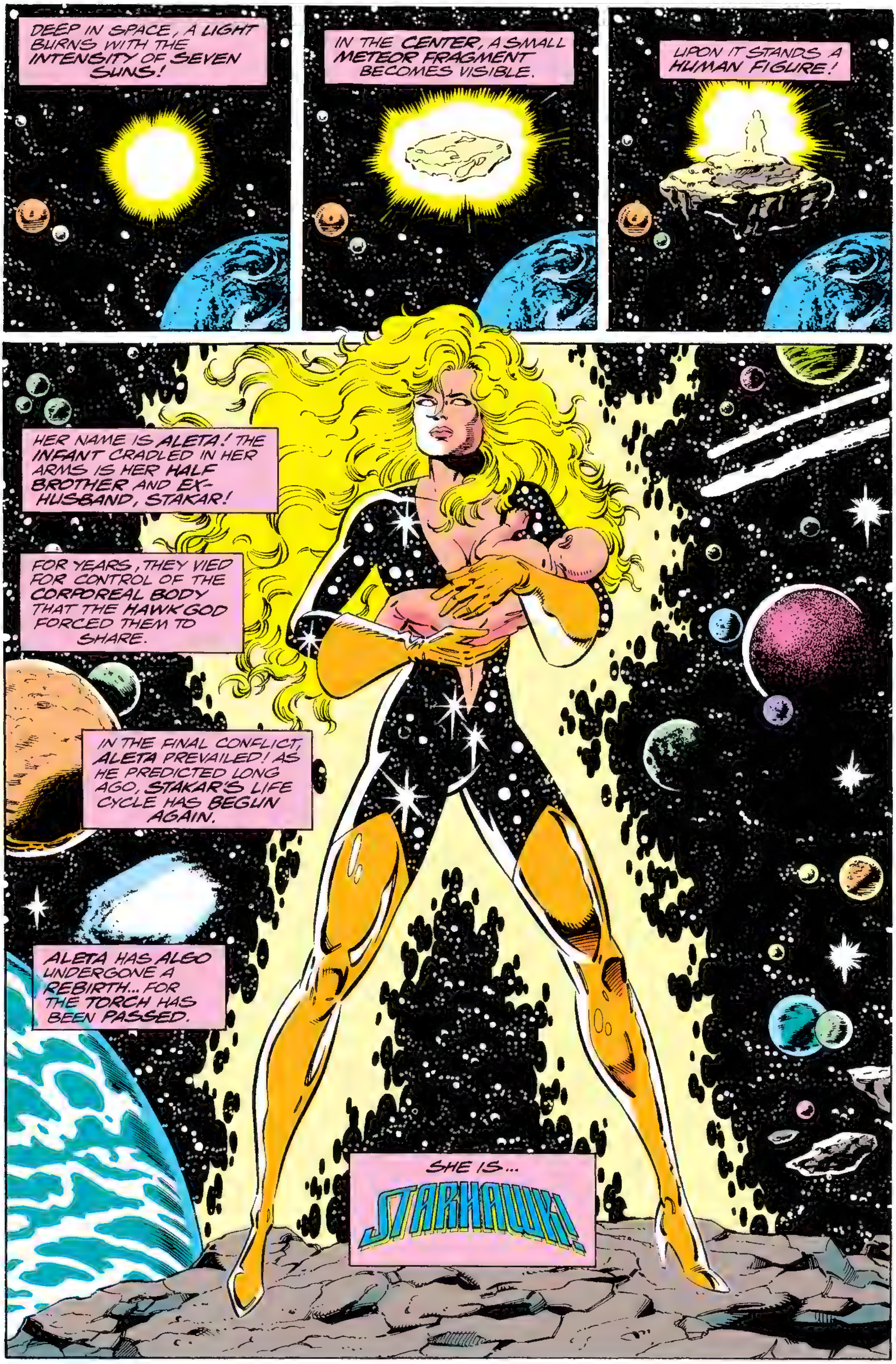

THANKS, DR. STRANGE! A QUICK BLAST WILL RICOCHET THE SHIELD--
KTANG
PYOW
SPAK
--BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO YOU, EARTHER!
PREPARE TO DIE!
WHOOOUF!
KRASH
UNNNGH!
YOUR STRENGTH IS FORMIDABLE, WARRIOR! BUT IT IS NO MATCH FOR THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTORRAK!
EH?

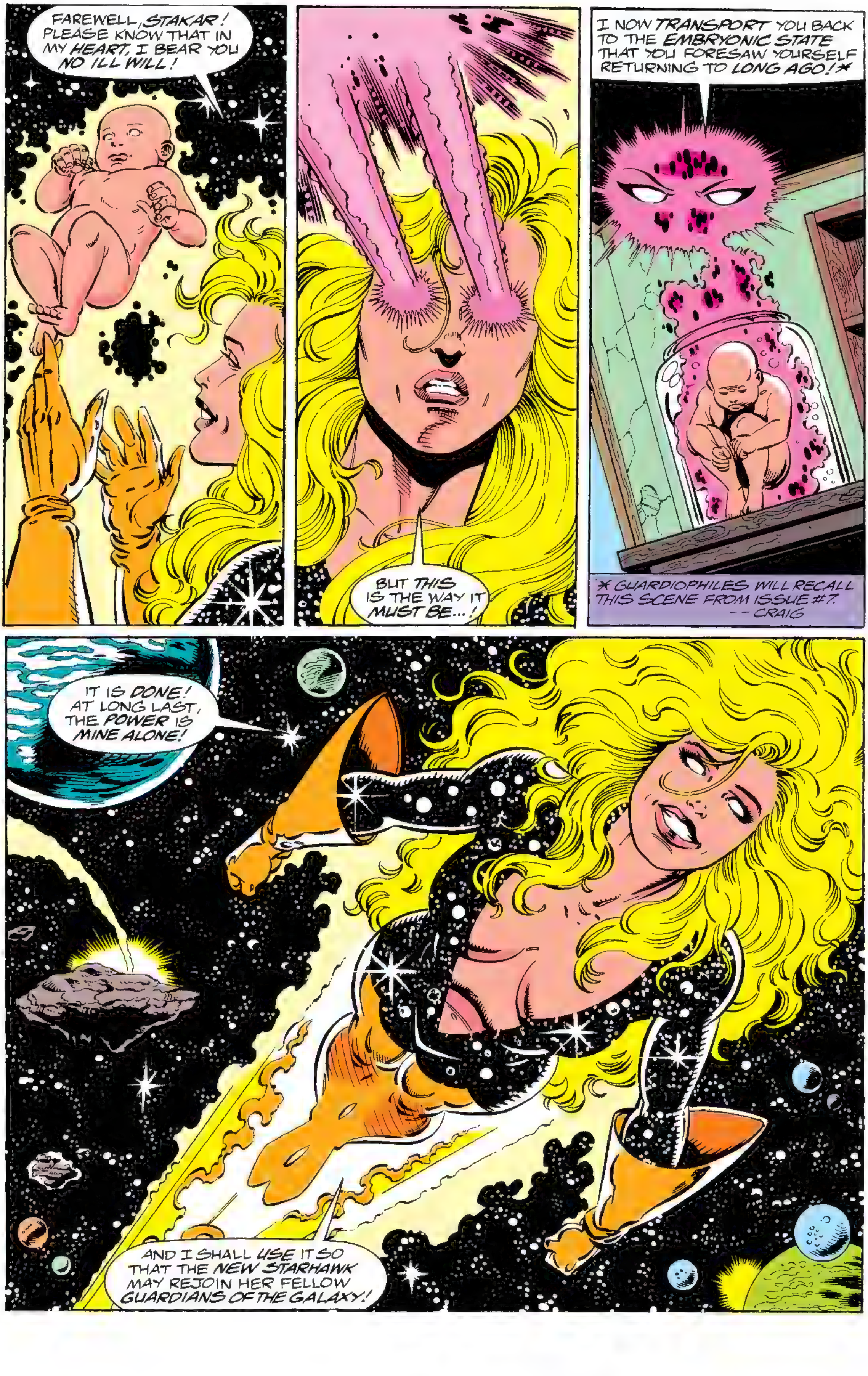

WRONG, SORCERER! YOUR PARLOR TRICKS CANNOT WITHSTAND THE POWER OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!
ANY MORE THAN YOUR SCRAWNY NECK CAN WITHSTAND MY DEATH GRIP!
CHOKE! HIS SPEED-- INCREDIBLE!
FAGHOOM
AGGGH!
BY THE BEARD OF THE ANCIENT ONE!
NIKKI! TALON!
STICK THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT, SCALY!
GEEZE! SPEAK TO ME!

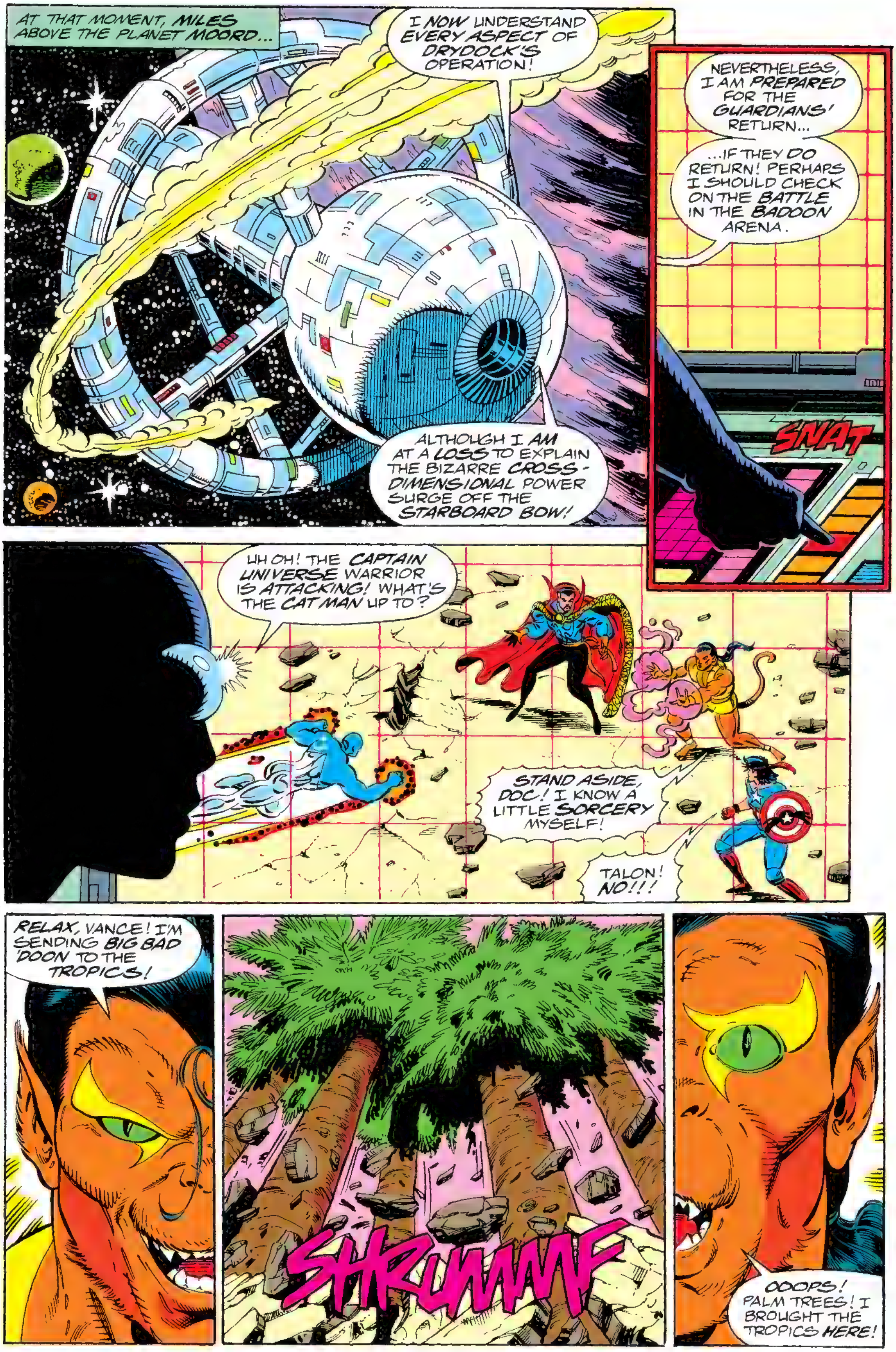

GUARDIANS GATHER!
WHAT?! CAN THE CORN, WILL YOU, ASTRO?
BUT I...I THOUGHT A RALLYING CRY-- LIKE CAPTAIN AMERICA MIGHT DO...
CHARLIE'S LYING HERE HALF DEAD AND YOU WANT TO MAKE UP SLOGANS! I OUGHT TO--
SAVE IT, BOYS! WE'VE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY!
SHE'S RIGHT!
PROTECT YOUR FALLEN COMRADE, NICHOLETTE!
TO MY SIDE, GENTLEMEN-- L'MATTO ATTACKS!
AND BY MY HAND YOU SHALL ALL PERISH!

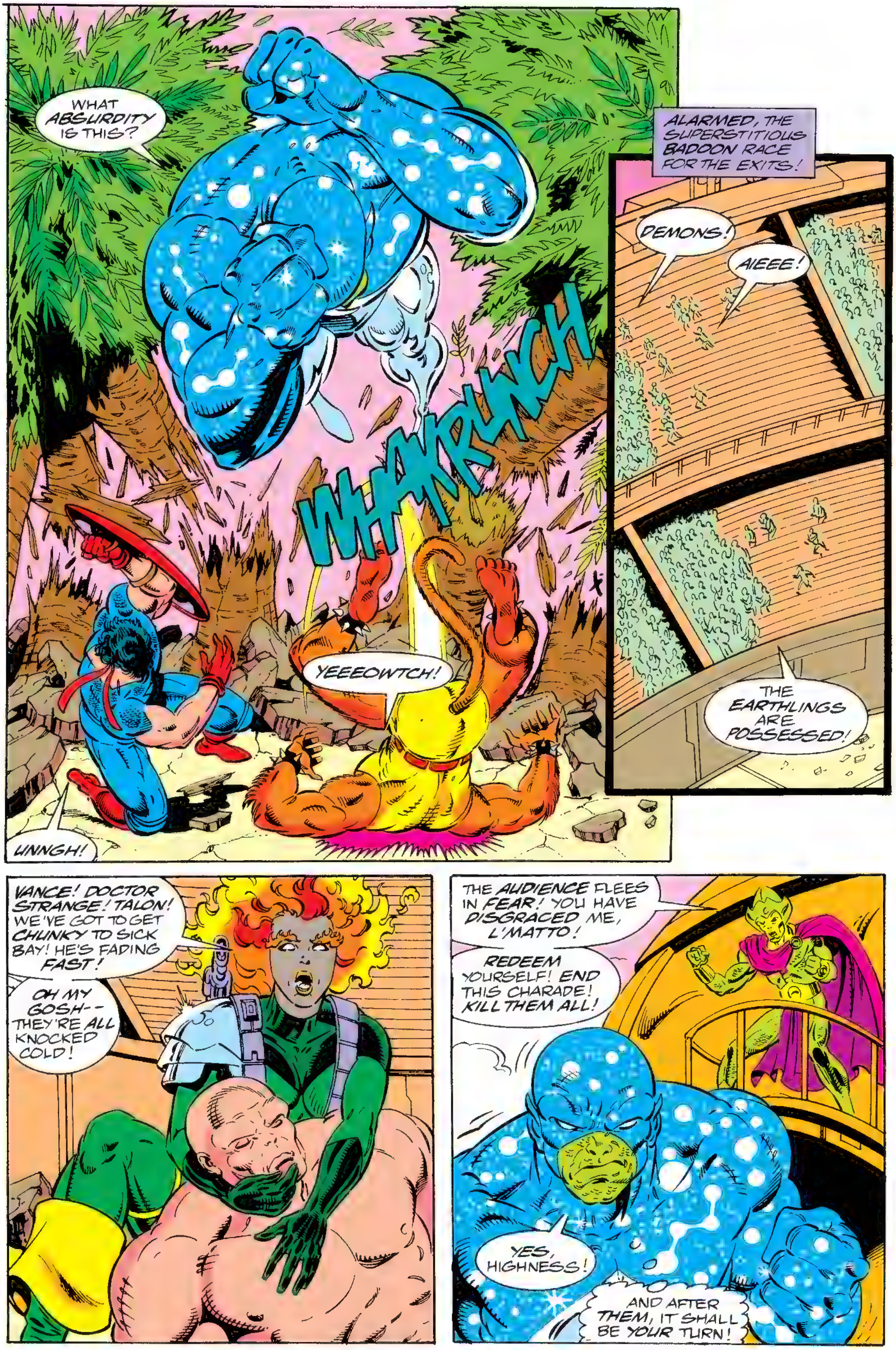

OUR ATTENTION MUST NOW SHIFT TO THE 31ST CENTURY.
NATURE TRIES IN VAIN TO WASH THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN CLEAN.
BENEATH THE CITY, A FORCED MARCH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR DAYS.
TARIN AND OLD REDD, THE LAST OF THE COMMANDEERS, HAVE LED THE RETOX CONTINGENT TO THE EDGE OF THE BRONX.
THEY'RE STALLING, FLASHFRAME! BOTH OF 'EM ARE HITTING THE PAUSE BUTTON.
RELAX, DIRTY HEAD! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WE AM HERE! THIS IS THE LAST TUNNEL! HOW IT STILL BE STANDING?
I DON'T KNOW! WE NUKED THIS PLACE!* IT SHOULD BE A SMOKING PILE OF RADIOACTIVE RUBBLE!
*BACK IN ISSUE #20.--CRAIG
AND IT'S ANYTHING BUT!
HEY, RETOXERS! I RECOGNIZE THIS JOINT FROM THE DOCUMENTARY!
ME, TOO! IT'S HANS TOMMER'S SALTEX COMPOUND!
WHAT A PERFECT PLACE TO TRANSMIT REALITEE-VEE FROM!

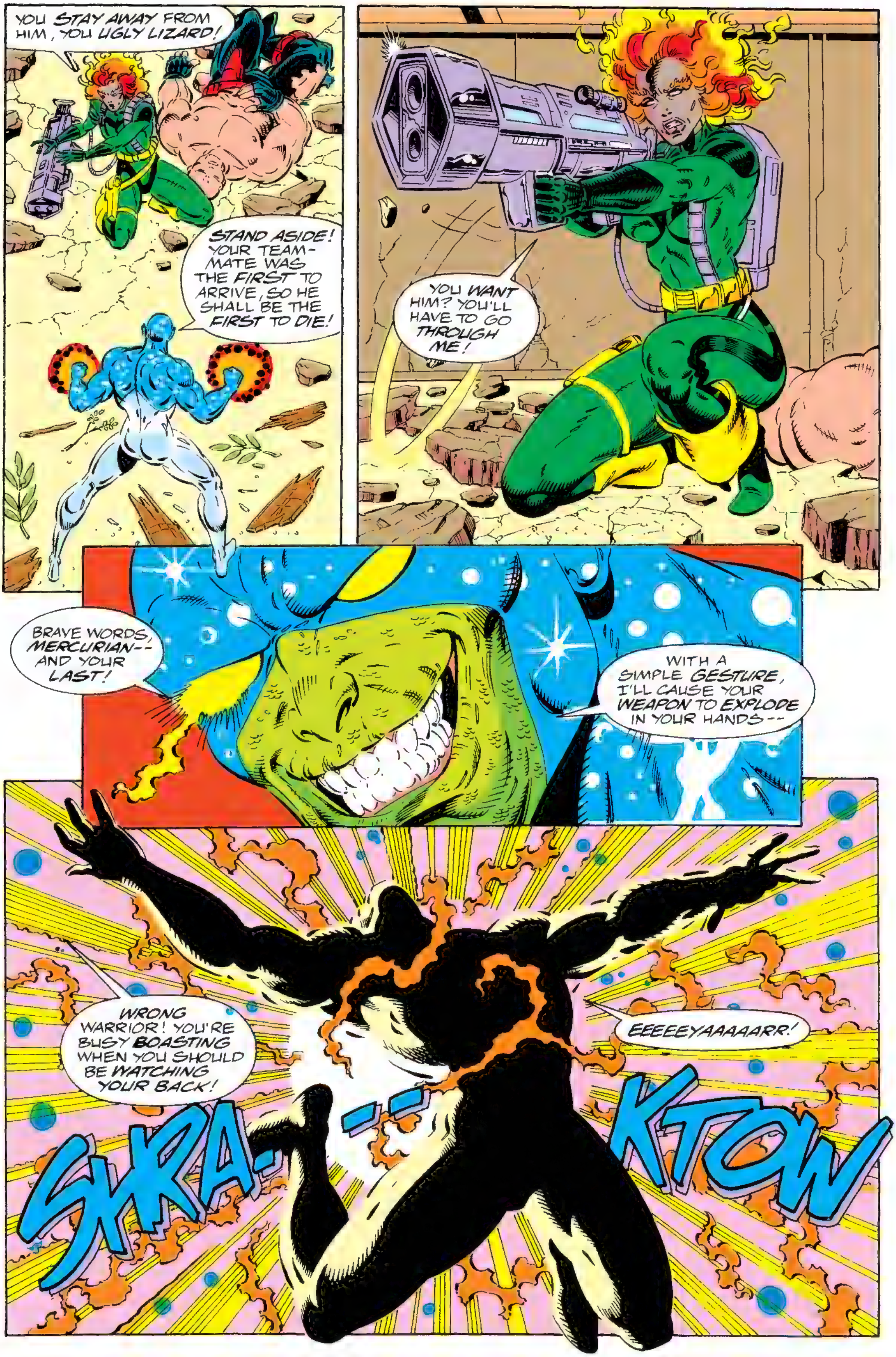

HOW IS THIS *POSSIBLE?* I SEE *SOME* DAMAGE, BUT NOT WHAT I *EXPECTED!*
PLACE LOOKING ALMOST *OPERATIONAL* AGAIN!
OPERATIONAL INDEED!
FIRE IT UP, *FLASH-FRAME!*
I WANT MY *RTV!*
YOU *GOT* IT, BOYS AND GIRLS! LET'S *SEE* WHAT'S BEHIND *DOOR NUMBER ONE!*
ULP! *HOLY--* I... ERRR...
CUT TO COMMERCIAL! *CUT TO COMMERCIAL!*
WELL, *WELL!* WHAT *HAVE* WE HERE?
OUR FIRST *NEW MEAT* IN MONTHS!
JUST WHAT THE *DOCTOR DOOM* ORDERED!

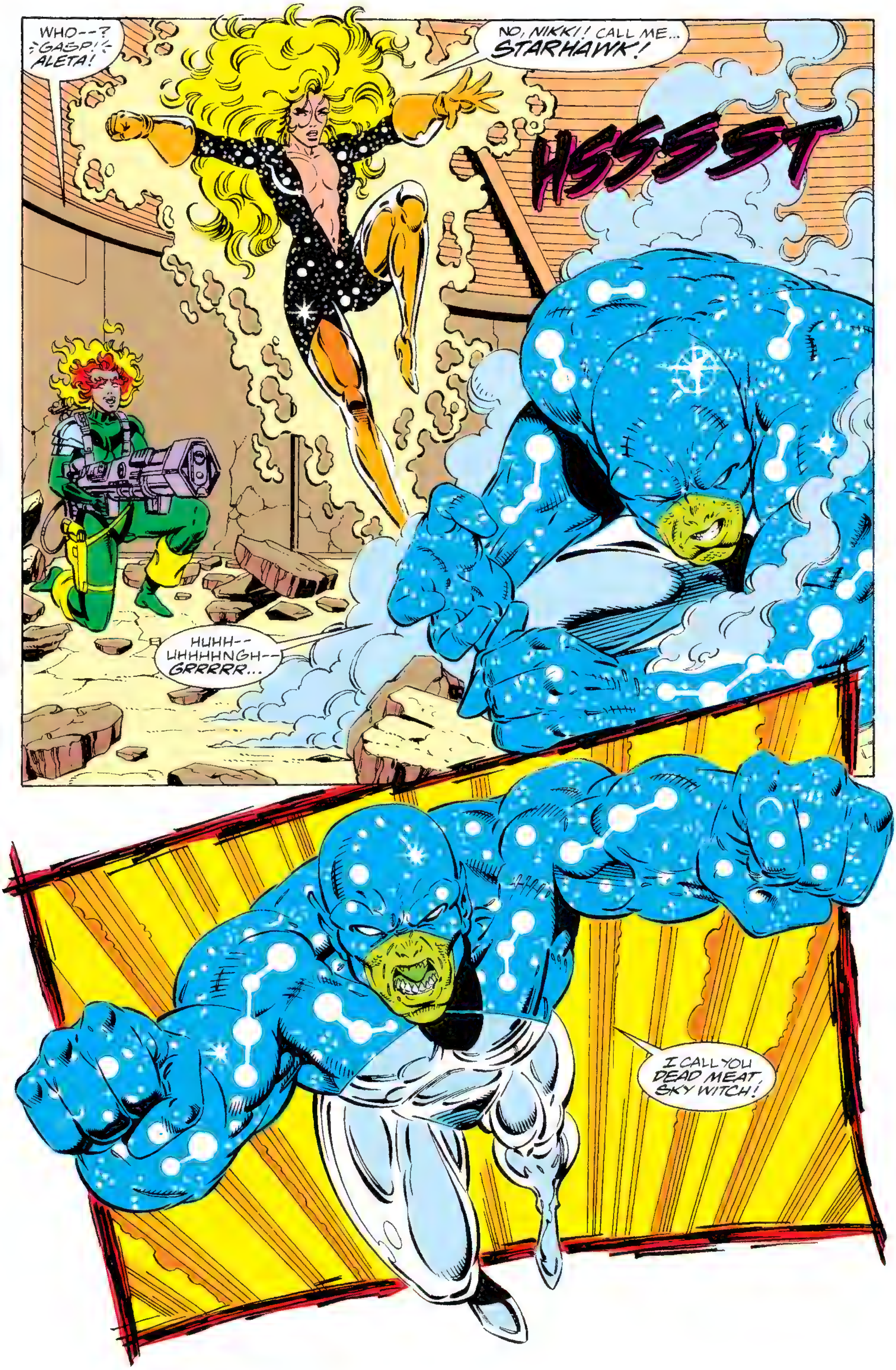

DEEP IN SPACE, A LIGHT BURNS WITH THE INTENSITY OF SEVEN SUNS!
IN THE CENTER, A SMALL METEOR FRAGMENT BECOMES VISIBLE.
UPON IT STANDS A HUMAN FIGURE!
HER NAME IS ALETA! THE INFANT CRADLED IN HER ARMS IS HER HALF BROTHER AND EX-HUSBAND, STAKAR!
FOR YEARS, THEY VIED FOR CONTROL OF THE CORPOREAL BODY THAT THE HAWK GOD FORCED THEM TO SHARE.
IN THE FINAL CONFLICT, ALETA PREVAILED! AS HE PREDICTED LONG AGO, STAKAR'S LIFE CYCLE HAS BEGUN AGAIN.
ALETA HAS ALSO UNDERGONE A REBIRTH... FOR THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED.
SHE IS...
STARHAWK!

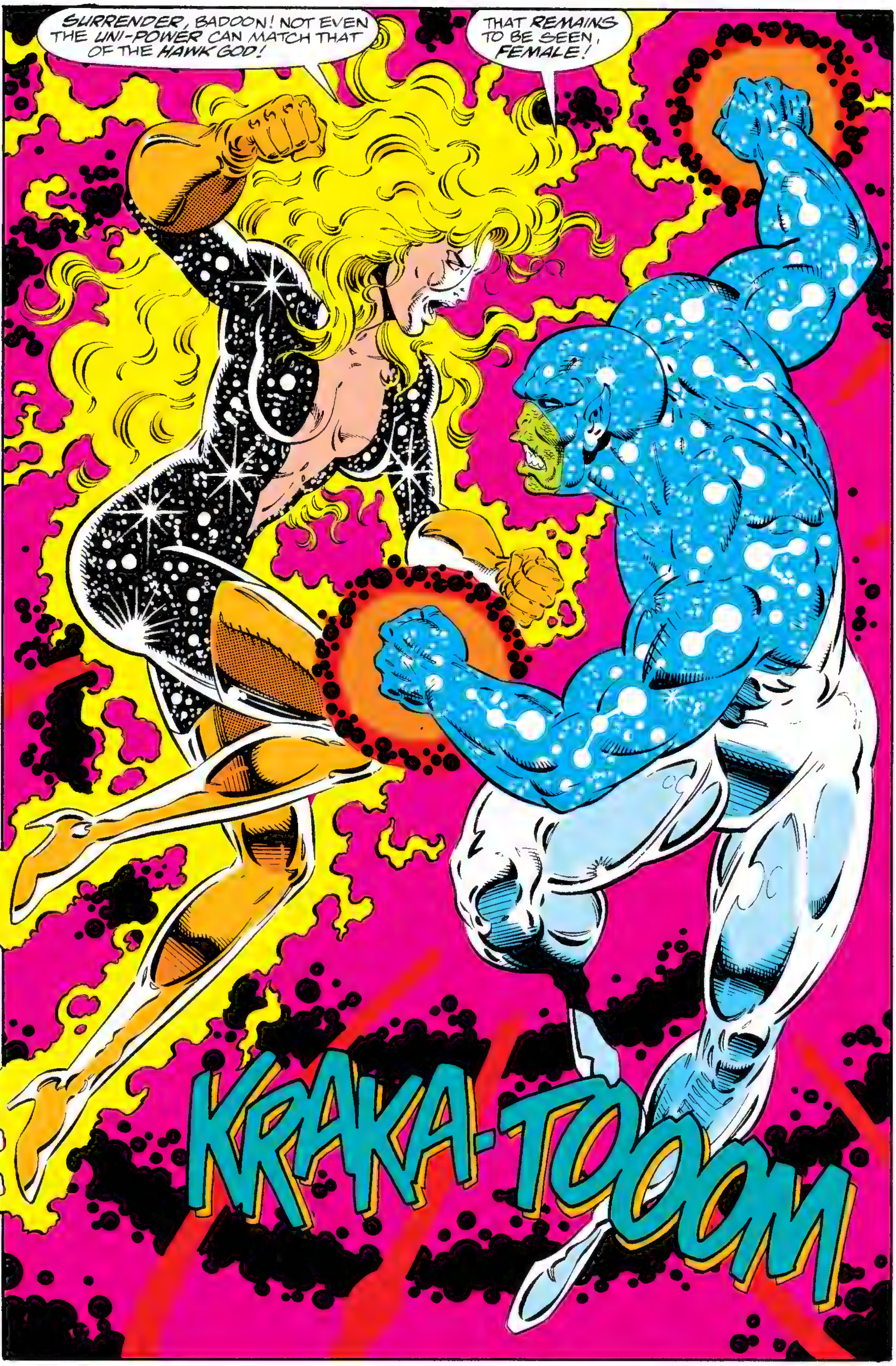

FAREWELL, STAKAR! PLEASE KNOW THAT IN MY HEART, I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL!
BUT THIS IS THE WAY IT MUST BE...!
I NOW TRANSPORT YOU BACK TO THE EMBRYONIC STATE THAT YOU FORESAW YOURSELF RETURNING TO LONG AGO!*
* GUARDIOPHILES WILL RECALL THIS SCENE FROM ISSUE #7. --CRAIG
IT IS DONE! AT LONG LAST, THE POWER IS MINE ALONE!
AND I SHALL USE IT SO THAT THE NEW STARHAWK MAY REJOIN HER FELLOW GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!

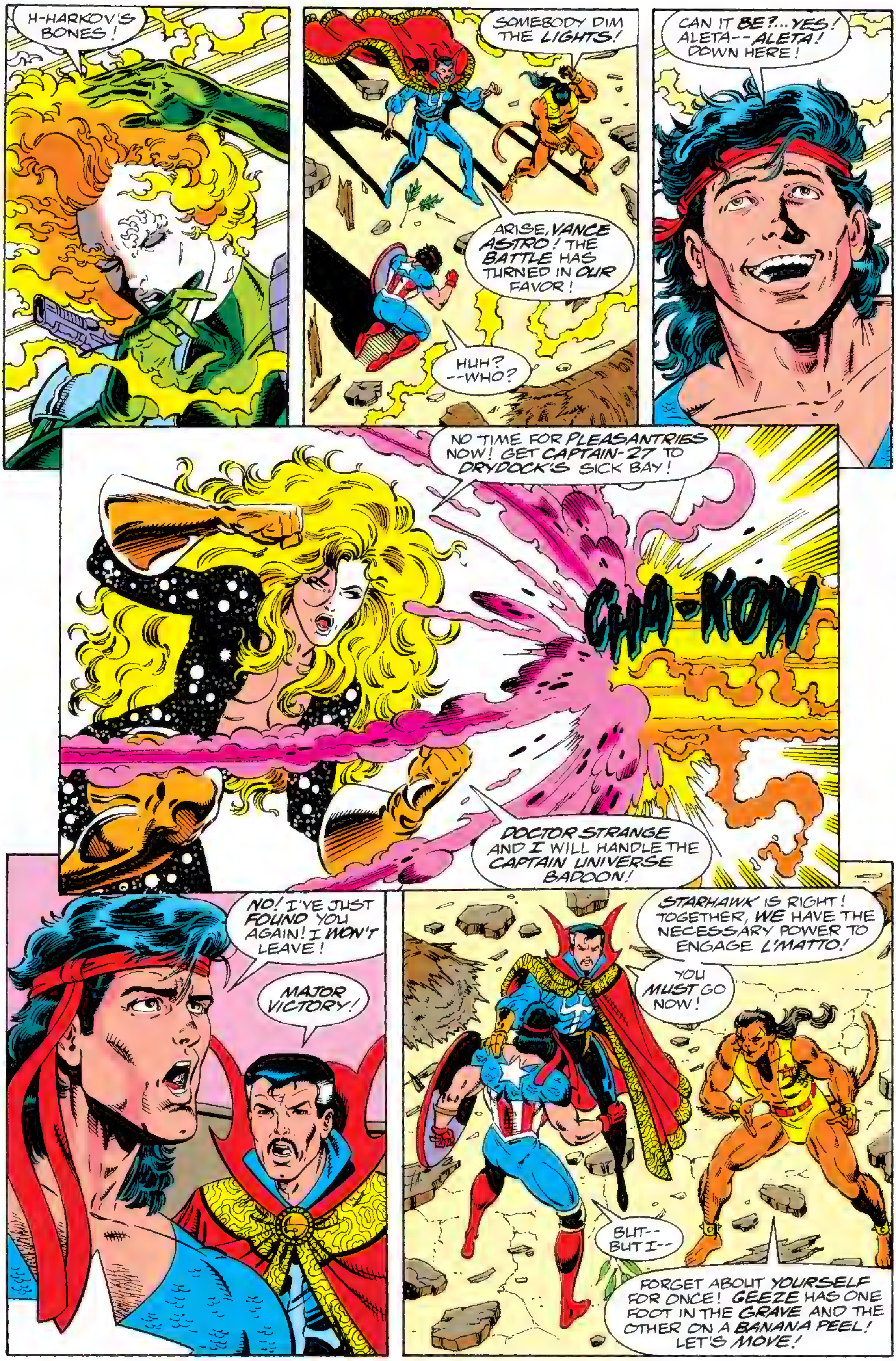

AT THAT MOMENT, MILES ABOVE THE PLANET MOORD...
I NOW UNDERSTAND EVERY ASPECT OF DRYDOCK'S OPERATION!
ALTHOUGH I AM AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE BIZARRE CROSS-DIMENSIONAL POWER SURGE OFF THE STARBOARD BOW!
NEVERTHELESS, I AM PREPARED FOR THE GUARDIANS' RETURN...
...IF THEY DO RETURN! PERHAPS I SHOULD CHECK ON THE BATTLE IN THE BADOON ARENA.
SNAT
UH OH! THE CAPTAIN UNIVERSE WARRIOR IS ATTACKING! WHAT'S THE CAT MAN UP TO?
STAND ASIDE, DOC! I KNOW A LITTLE SORCERY MYSELF!
TALON! NO!!!
RELAX, VANCE! I'M SENDING BIG BAD 'DOON TO THE TROPICS!
SHRUMMF
OOOPS! PALM TREES! I BROUGHT THE TROPICS HERE!

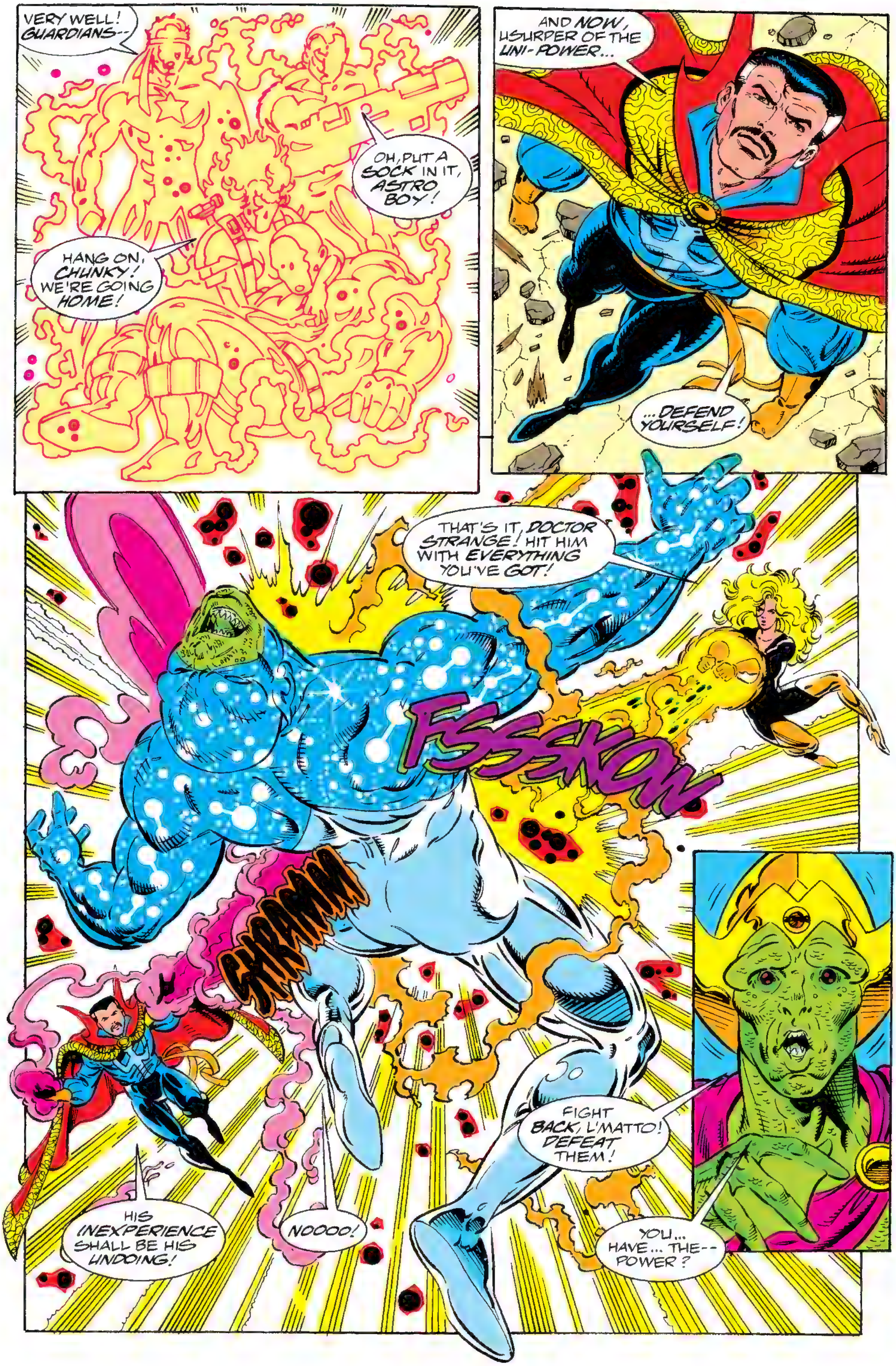

WHAT ABSURDITY IS THIS?
WHAKRUNCH
YEEEOWTCH!
UNNGH!
ALARMED, THE SUPERSTITIOUS BADOON RACE FOR THE EXITS!
DEMONS!
AIEEE!
THE EARTHLINGS ARE POSSESSED!
VANCE! DOCTOR STRANGE! TALON! WE'VE GOT TO GET CHUNKY TO SICK BAY! HE'S FADING FAST!
OH MY GOSH-- THEY'RE ALL KNOCKED COLD!
THE AUDIENCE FLEES IN FEAR! YOU HAVE DISGRACED ME, L'MATTO!
REDEEM YOURSELF! END THIS CHARADE! KILL THEM ALL!
YES, HIGHNESS!
AND AFTER THEM, IT SHALL BE YOUR TURN!

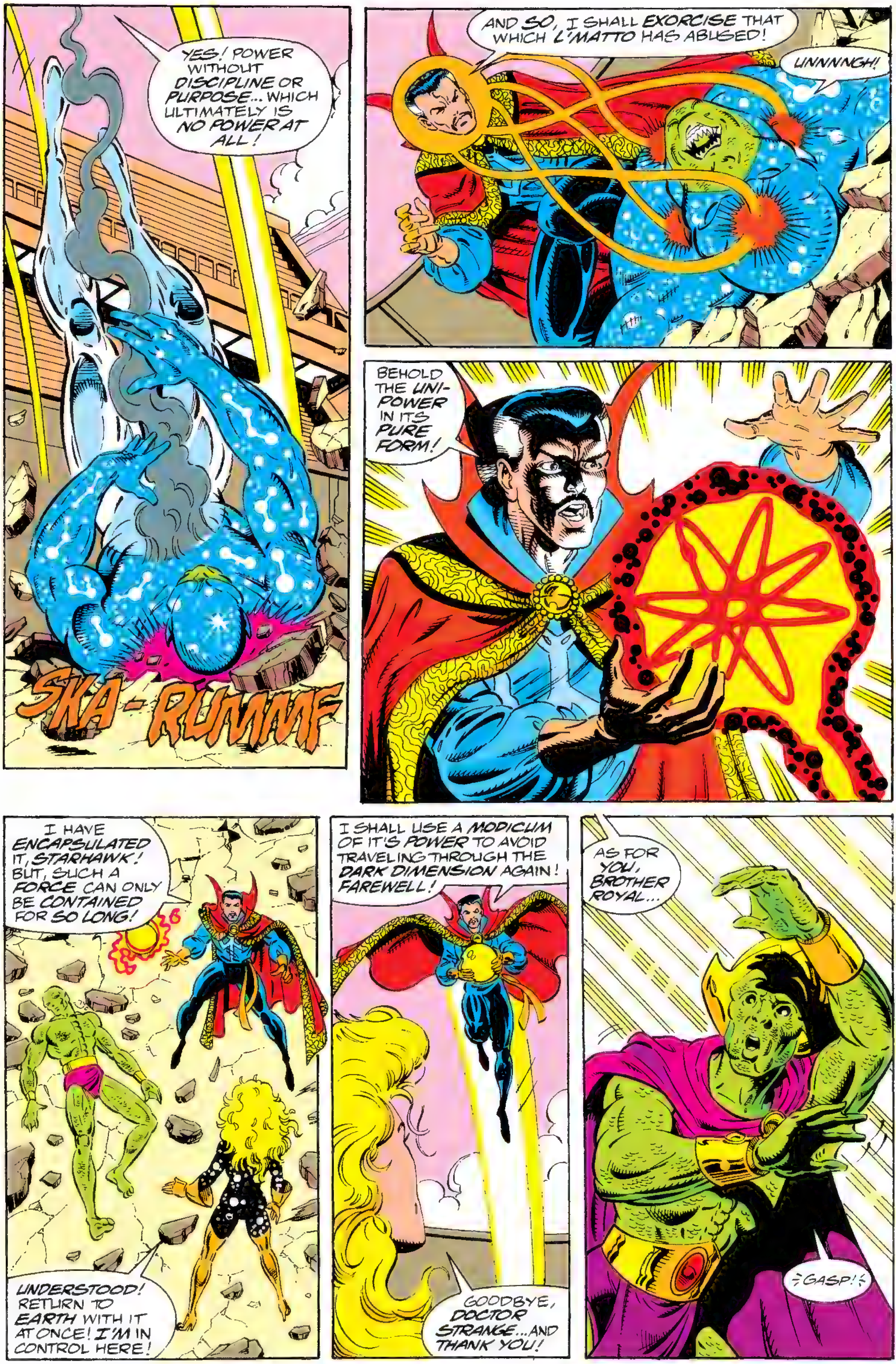

YOU STAY AWAY FROM HIM, YOU UGLY LIZARD!
STAND ASIDE! YOUR TEAM-MATE WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE, SO HE SHALL BE THE FIRST TO DIE!
YOU WANT HIM? YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!
BRAVE WORDS, MERCURIAN-- AND YOUR LAST!
WITH A SIMPLE GESTURE, I'LL CAUSE YOUR WEAPON TO EXPLODE IN YOUR HANDS--
WRONG WARRIOR! YOU'RE BUSY BOASTING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING YOUR BACK!
EEEEEYAAAAARR!
SKRA--KTOW

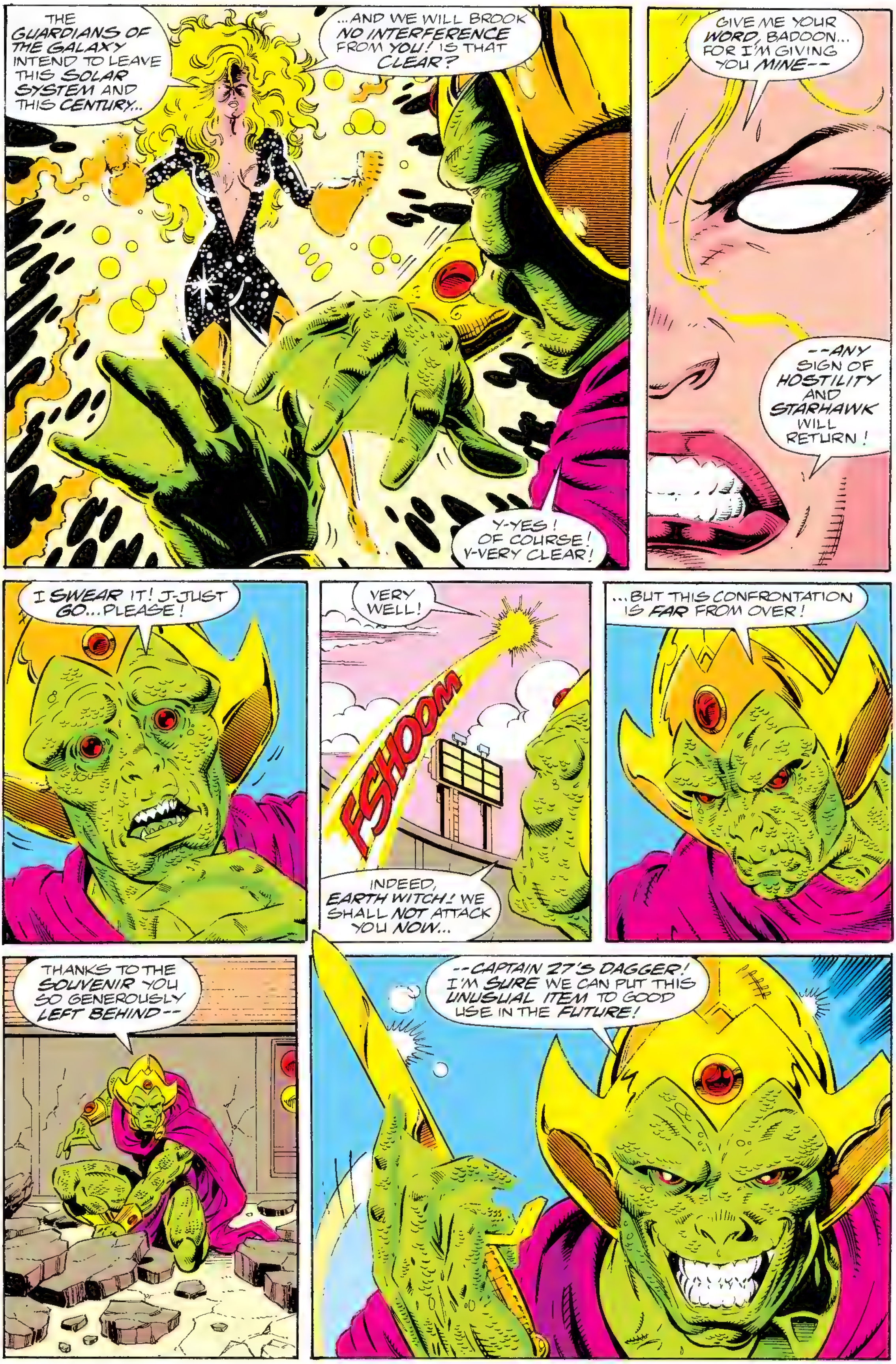

WHO--? GASP! ALETA!
NO, NIKKI! CALL ME... STARHAWK!
HSSSSST
HUHH-- UHHHHNGH-- GRRRRR...
I CALL YOU DEAD MEAT, SKY WITCH!

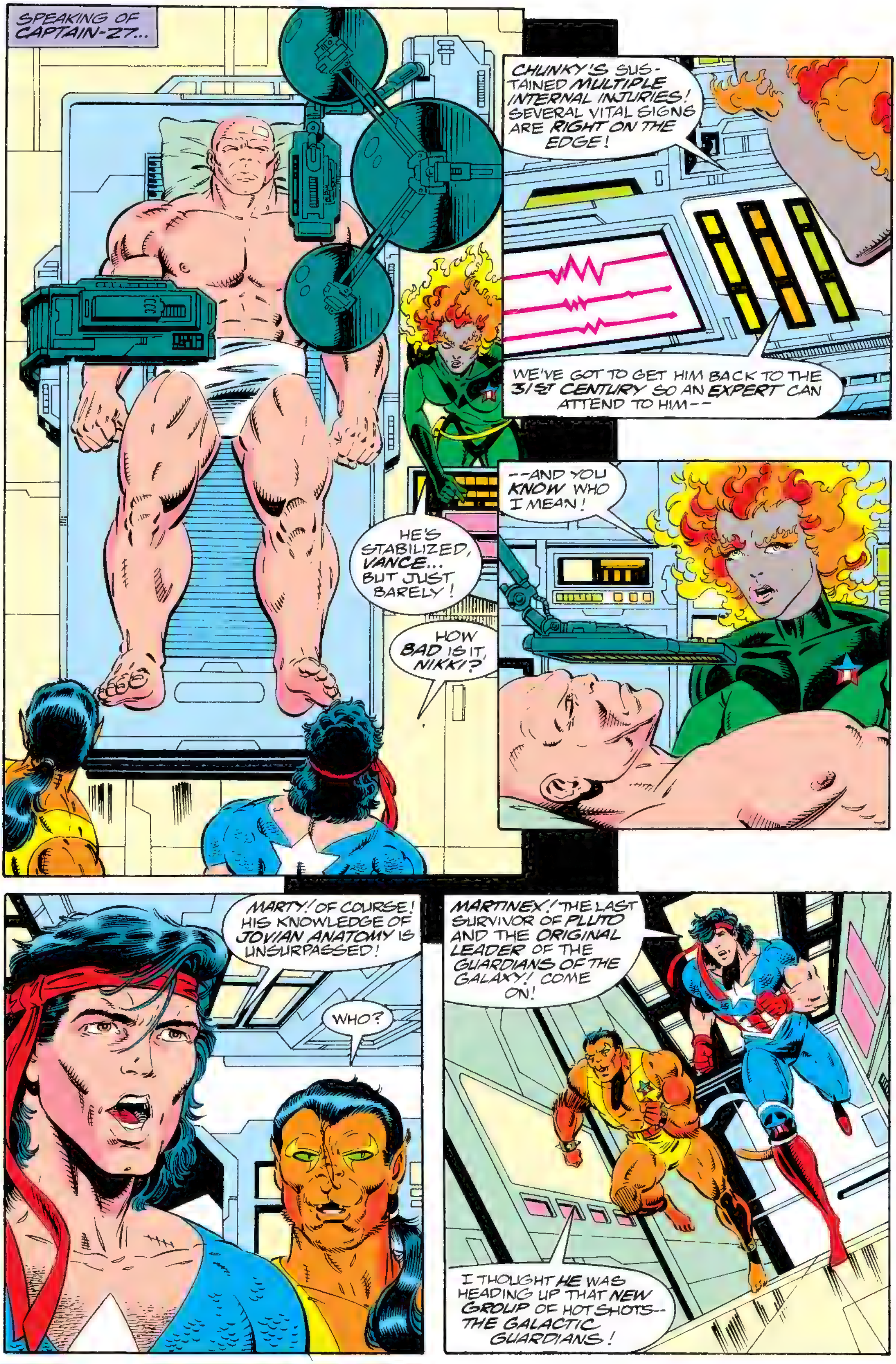

SURRENDER, BADOON! NOT EVEN THE UNI-POWER CAN MATCH THAT OF THE HAWK GOD!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, FEMALE!
KRAKA-TOOOM

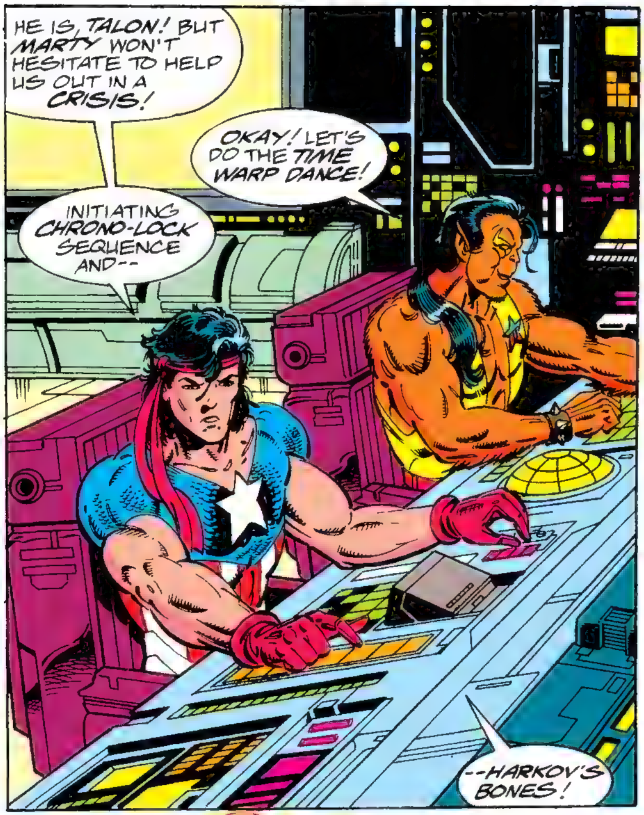

H-HARKOV'S BONES!
SOMEBODY DIM THE LIGHTS!
ARISE, VANCE ASTRO! THE BATTLE HAS TURNED IN OUR FAVOR!
HUH? --WHO?
CAN IT BE?... YES! ALETA--ALETA! DOWN HERE!
NO TIME FOR PLEASANTRIES NOW! GET CAPTAIN-27 TO DRYDOCK'S SICK BAY!
CHA-KOW
DOCTOR STRANGE AND I WILL HANDLE THE CAPTAIN UNIVERSE BADOON!
NO! I'VE JUST FOUND YOU AGAIN! I WON'T LEAVE!
MAJOR VICTORY!
STARHAWK IS RIGHT! TOGETHER, WE HAVE THE NECESSARY POWER TO ENGAGE L'MATTO!
YOU MUST GO NOW!
BUT-- BUT I--
FORGET ABOUT YOURSELF FOR ONCE! GEEZE HAS ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE AND THE OTHER ON A BANANA PEEL! LET'S MOVE!

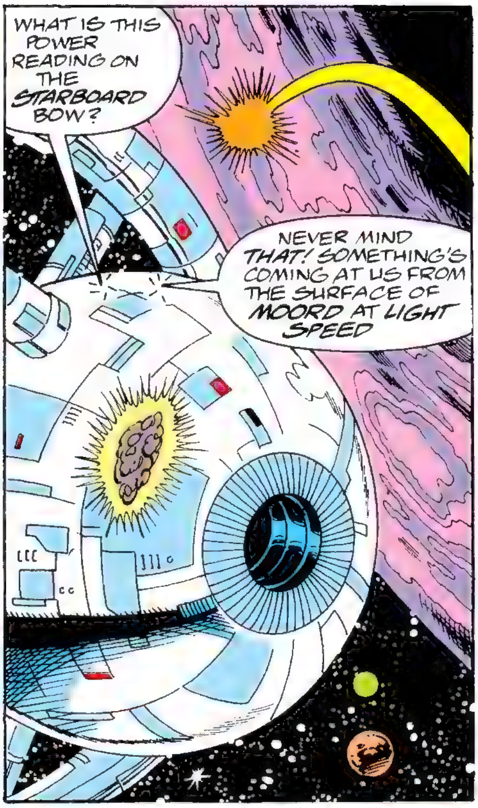

VERY WELL! GUARDIANS--
OH, PUT A SOCK IN IT, ASTRO BOY!
HANG ON, CHUNKY! WE'RE GOING HOME!
AND NOW, USURPER OF THE UNI-POWER...
...DEFEND YOURSELF!
THAT'S IT, DOCTOR STRANGE! HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!
FSSSKOW
CHRAMM
FIGHT BACK, L'MATTO! DEFEAT THEM!
HIS INEXPERIENCE SHALL BE HIS UNDOING!
NOOOO!
YOU... HAVE... THE-- POWER?

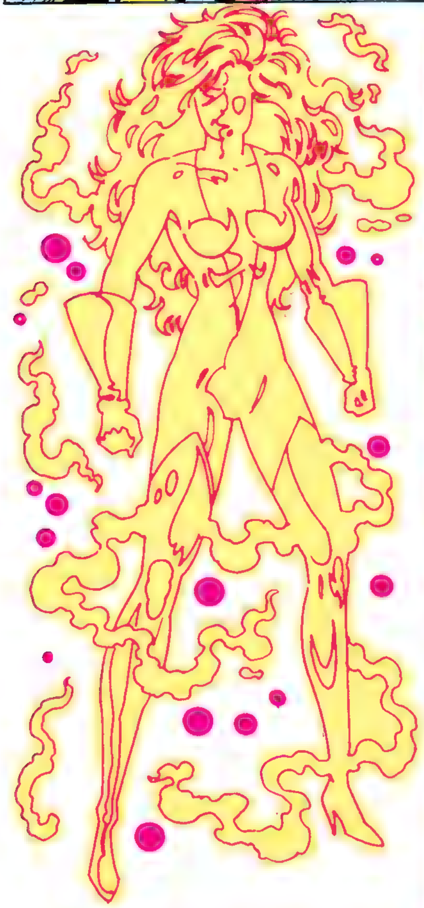

YES! POWER WITHOUT DISCIPLINE OR PURPOSE... WHICH ULTIMATELY IS NO POWER AT ALL!
SKA-RUMMF
AND SO, I SHALL EXORCISE THAT WHICH L'MATTO HAS ABUSED!
UNNNNGH!
BEHOLD THE UNI-POWER IN ITS PURE FORM!
I HAVE ENCAPSULATED IT, STARHAWK! BUT, SUCH A FORCE CAN ONLY BE CONTAINED FOR SO LONG!
UNDERSTOOD! RETURN TO EARTH WITH IT AT ONCE! I'M IN CONTROL HERE!
I SHALL USE A MODICUM OF IT'S POWER TO AVOID TRAVELING THROUGH THE DARK DIMENSION AGAIN! FAREWELL!
GOODBYE, DOCTOR STRANGE...AND THANK YOU!
AS FOR YOU, BROTHER ROYAL...
GASP!

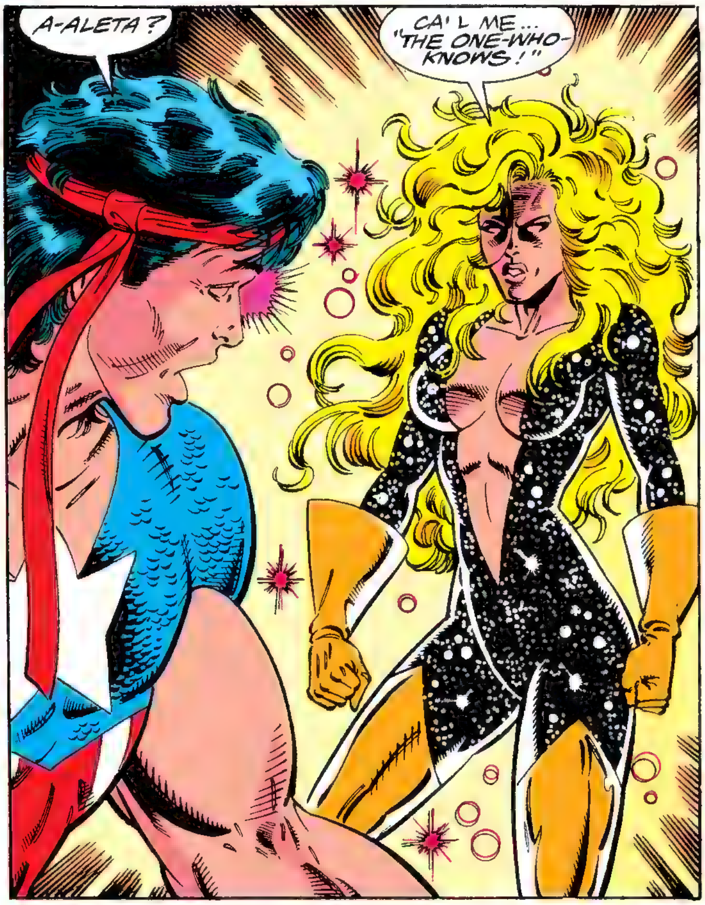

THE *GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY* INTEND TO LEAVE THIS *SOLAR SYSTEM* AND THIS *CENTURY*...
...AND WE WILL BROOK *NO INTERFERENCE* FROM *YOU*! IS THAT *CLEAR*?
Y-YES! OF COURSE! Y-VERY CLEAR!
GIVE ME YOUR *WORD*, BADOON... FOR I'M GIVING YOU *MINE*--
--*ANY* SIGN OF *HOSTILITY* AND *STARHAWK* WILL RETURN!
I *SWEAR* IT! J-JUST *GO*...PLEASE!
VERY WELL!
FSHOOM
INDEED, *EARTH WITCH*! WE SHALL *NOT* ATTACK YOU *NOW*...
...BUT THIS CONFRONTATION IS *FAR* FROM OVER!
THANKS TO THE *SOUVENIR* YOU SO GENEROUSLY *LEFT BEHIND*--
--*CAPTAIN 27'S DAGGER*! I'M *SURE* WE CAN PUT THIS *UNUSUAL ITEM* TO GOOD USE IN THE *FUTURE*!

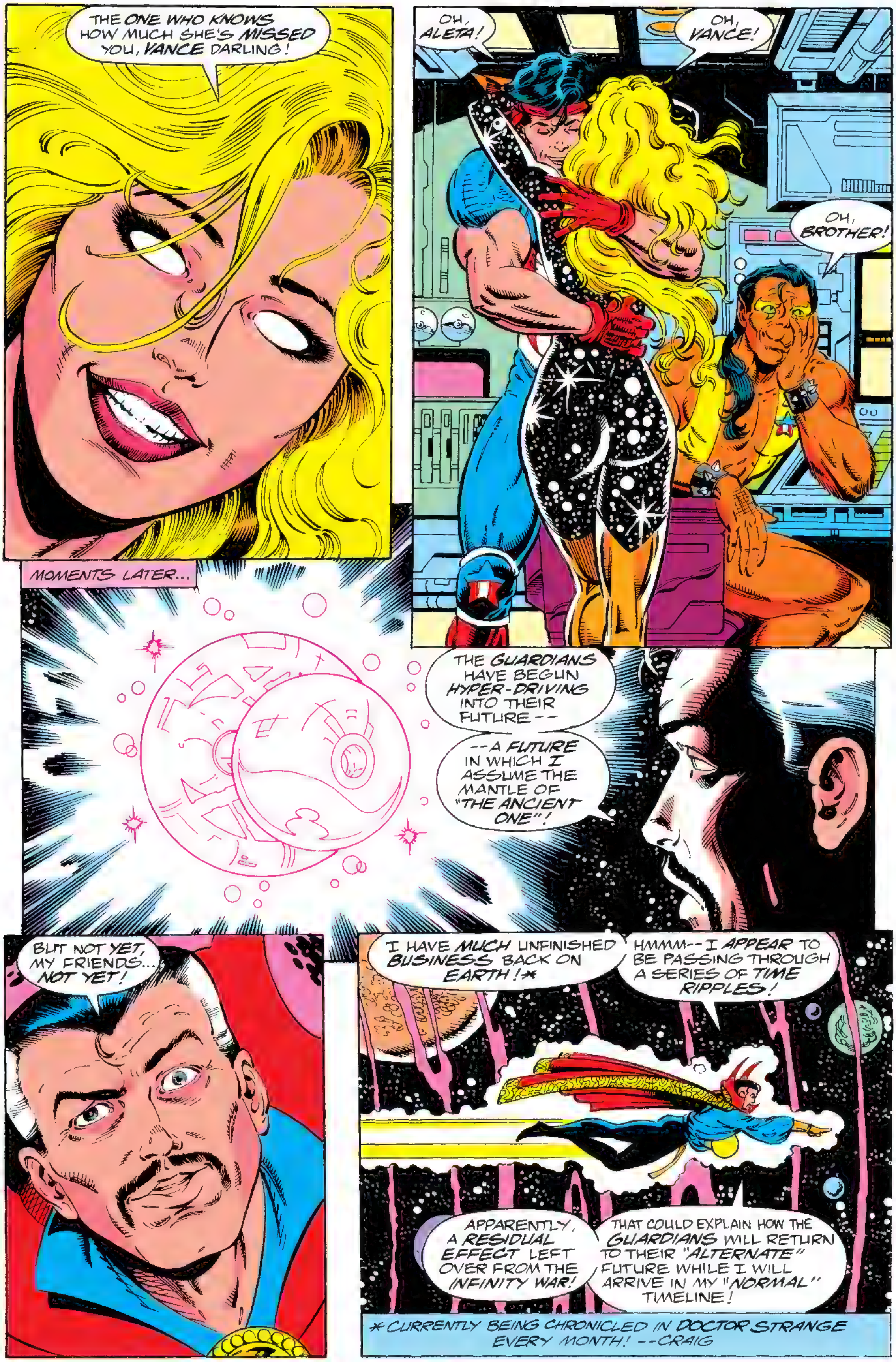

SPEAKING OF CAPTAIN-27...
CHUNKY'S SUSTAINED MULTIPLE INTERNAL INJURIES! SEVERAL VITAL SIGNS ARE RIGHT ON THE EDGE!
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM BACK TO THE 31ST CENTURY SO AN EXPERT CAN ATTEND TO HIM--
HE'S STABILIZED, VANCE... BUT JUST BARELY!
HOW BAD IS IT, NIKKI?
--AND YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN!
MARTY! OF COURSE! HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JOVIAN ANATOMY IS UNSURPASSED!
WHO?
MARTINEX! THE LAST SURVIVOR OF PLUTO AND THE ORIGINAL LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! COME ON!
I THOUGHT HE WAS HEADING UP THAT NEW GROUP OF HOT SHOTS-- THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS!

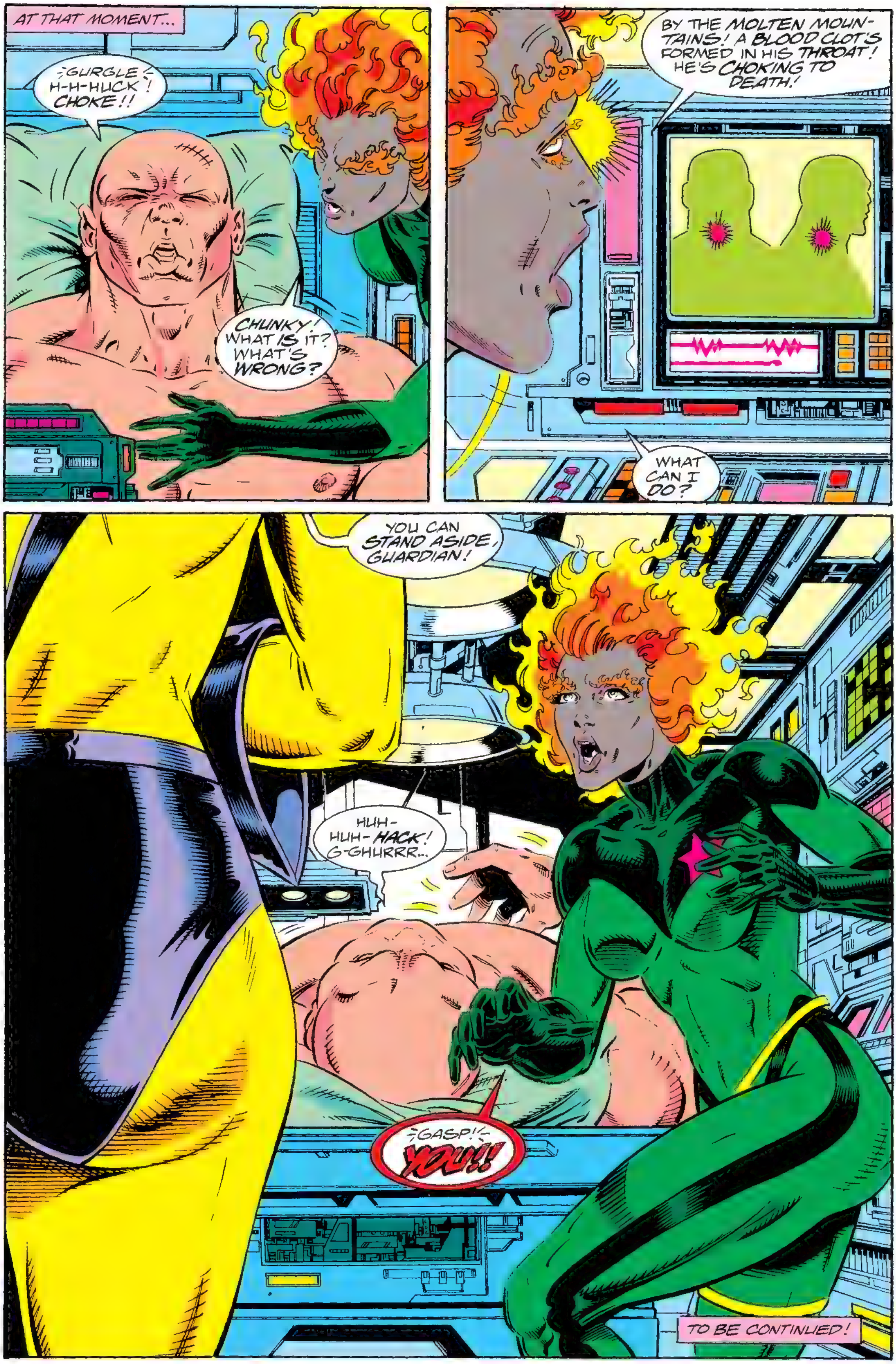

HE IS, TALON! BUT MARTY WON'T HESITATE TO HELP US OUT IN A CRISIS!
OKAY! LET'S DO THE TIME WARP DANCE!
INITIATING CHRONO-LOCK SEQUENCE AND--
--HARKOV'S BONES!


WHAT IS THIS POWER READING ON THE STARBOARD BOW?
NEVER MIND THAT! SOMETHING'S COMING AT US FROM THE SURFACE OF MOORD AT LIGHT SPEED




A-ALETA?
CA'L ME... "THE ONE-WHO-KNOWS!"


THE ONE WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH SHE'S MISSED YOU, VANCE DARLING!
OH, ALETA!
OH, VANCE!
OH, BROTHER!
MOMENTS LATER...
THE GUARDIANS HAVE BEGUN HYPER-DRIVING INTO THEIR FUTURE--
--A FUTURE IN WHICH I ASSUME THE MANTLE OF "THE ANCIENT ONE"!
BUT NOT YET, MY FRIENDS... NOT YET!
I HAVE MUCH UNFINISHED BUSINESS BACK ON EARTH!*
HMMM--I APPEAR TO BE PASSING THROUGH A SERIES OF TIME RIPPLES!
APPARENTLY, A RESIDUAL EFFECT LEFT OVER FROM THE INFINITY WAR!
THAT COULD EXPLAIN HOW THE GUARDIANS WILL RETURN TO THEIR "ALTERNATE" FUTURE WHILE I WILL ARRIVE IN MY "NORMAL" TIMELINE!
*CURRENTLY BEING CHRONICLED IN DOCTOR STRANGE EVERY MONTH! --CRAIG


AT THAT MOMENT...
:GURGLE: H-H-HUCK! CHOKE!!
CHUNKY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS! A BLOOD CLOT'S FORMED IN HIS THROAT! HE'S CHOKING TO DEATH!
WHAT CAN I DO?
YOU CAN STAND ASIDE, GUARDIAN!
HUH-HUH-HACK! G-GHURRR...
:GASP!: YOU!!
TO BE CONTINUED!

MARVEL COMICS

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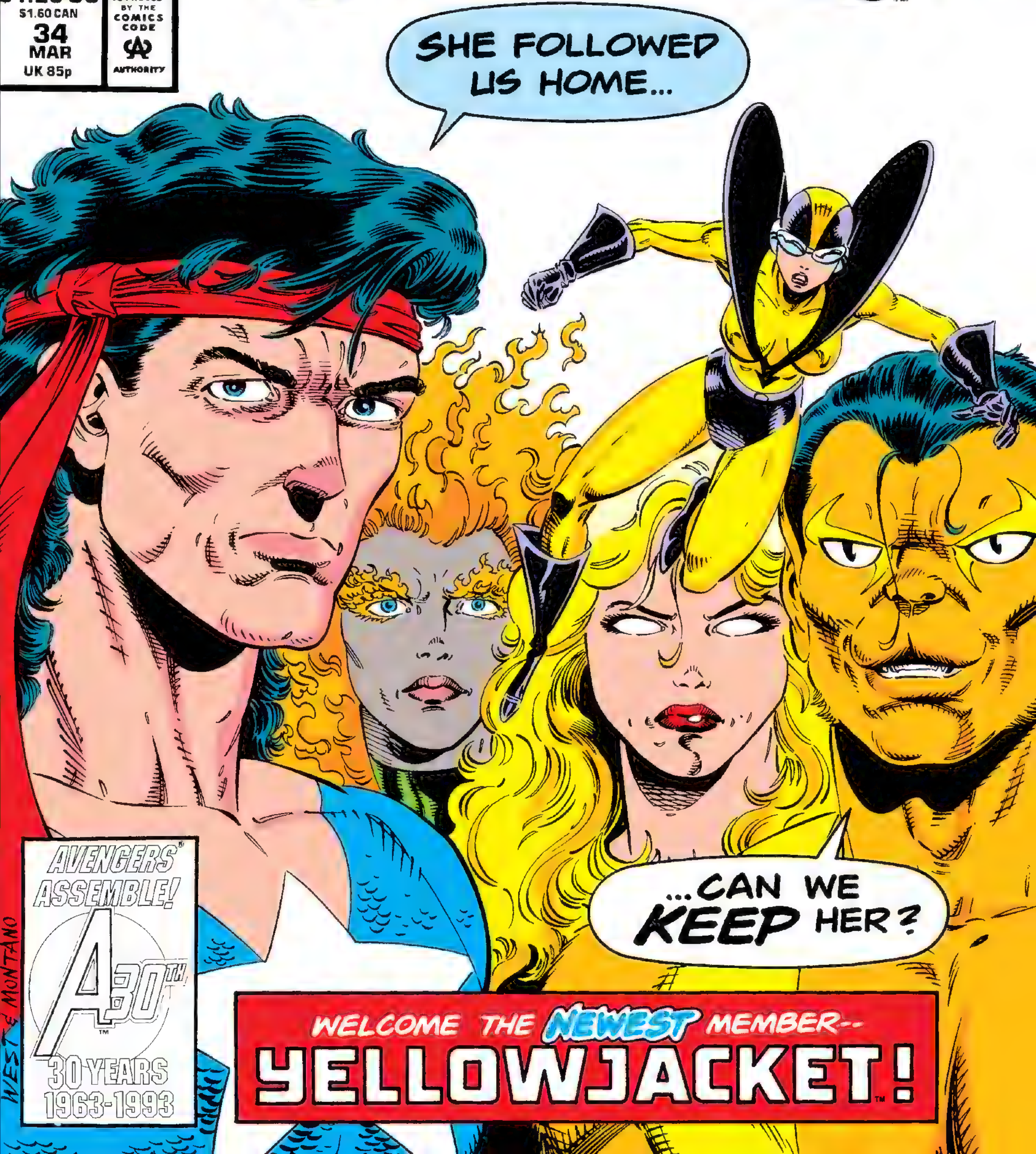
EXPLORE THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IN THE 31ST CENTURY WITH THE

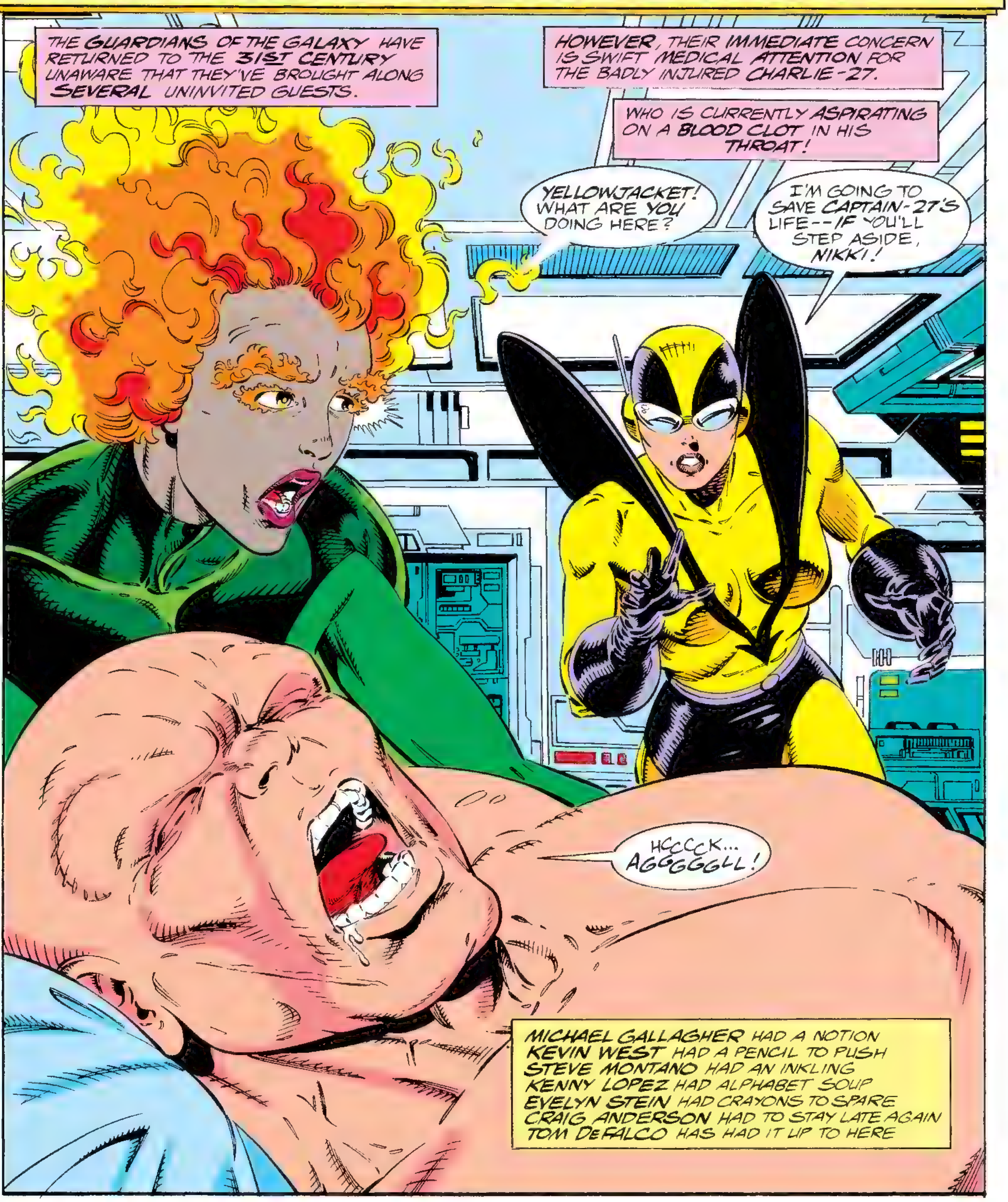
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY™


SHE FOLLOWED US HOME...
...CAN WE KEEP HER?
AVENGERS® ASSEMBLE!
A 30TH
30 YEARS 1963-1993
WEST & MONTANO

WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBER--

YELLOWJACKET!™

"A HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY"


THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HAVE RETURNED TO THE 31st CENTURY UNAWARE THAT THEY'VE BROUGHT ALONG SEVERAL UNINVITED GUESTS.
HOWEVER, THEIR IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS SWIFT MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR THE BADLY INJURED CHARLIE-27.
WHO IS CURRENTLY ASPIRATING ON A BLOOD CLOT IN HIS THROAT!
YELLOWJACKET! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M GOING TO SAVE CAPTAIN-27'S LIFE--IF YOU'LL STEP ASIDE, NIKKI!
HCCCCK... AGGGGGLL!

MICHAEL GALLAGHER HAD A NOTION
KEVIN WEST HAD A PENCIL TO PUSH
STEVE MONTANO HAD AN INKLING
KENNY LOPEZ HAD ALPHABET SOUP
EVELYN STEIN HAD CRAYONS TO SPARE
CRAIG ANDERSON HAD TO STAY LATE AGAIN
TOM DeFALCO HAS HAD IT UP TO HERE

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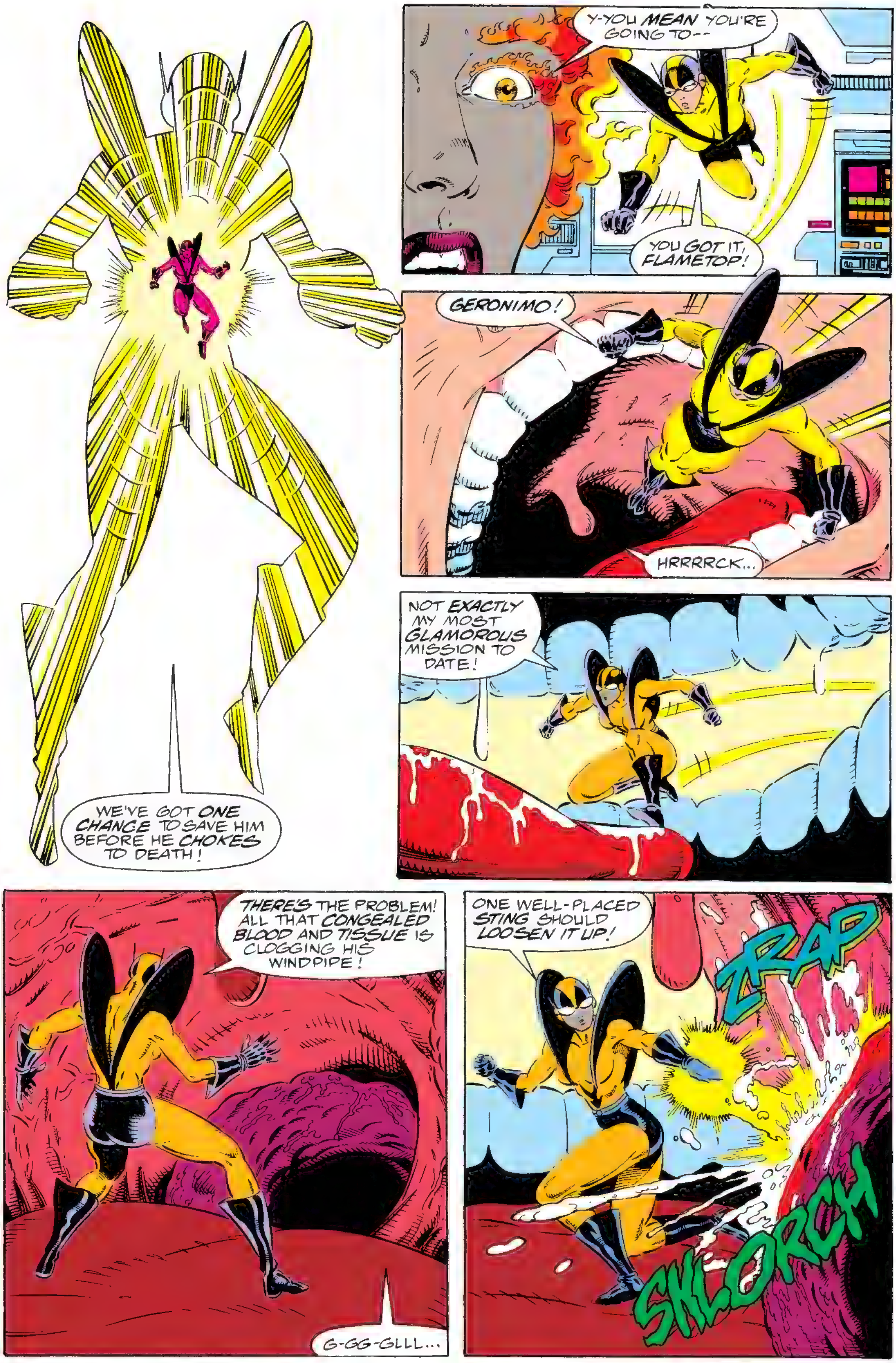
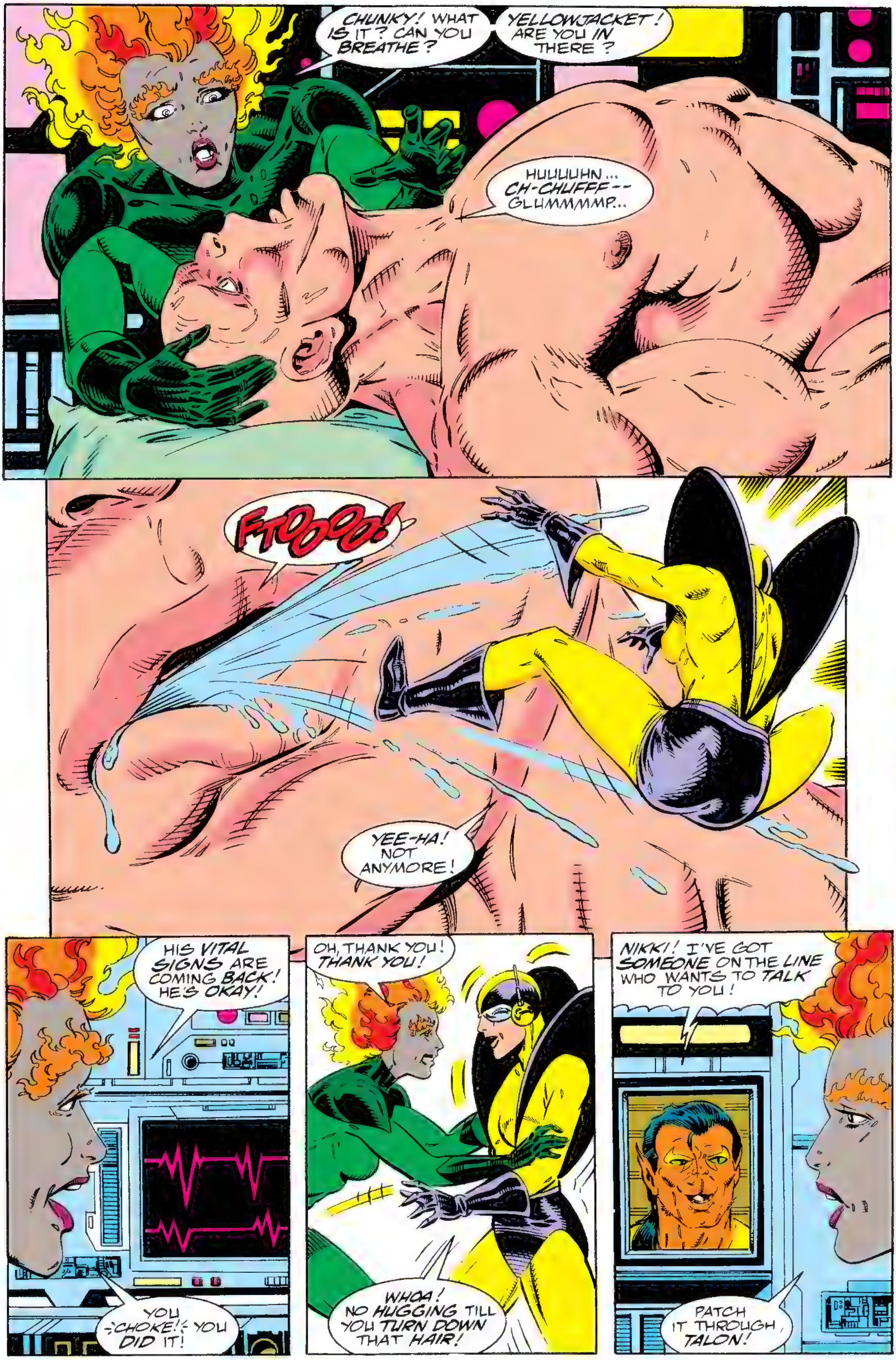
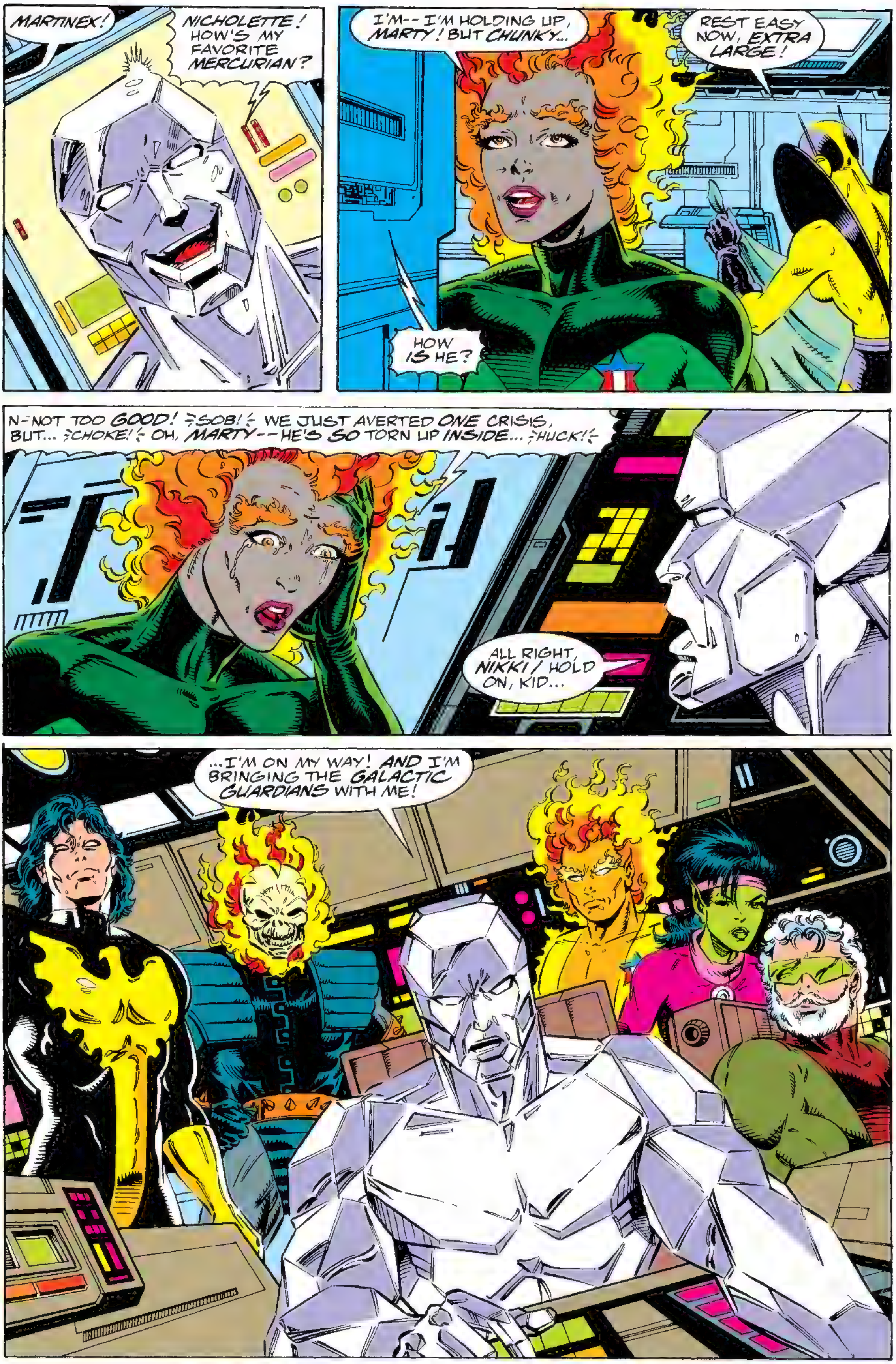
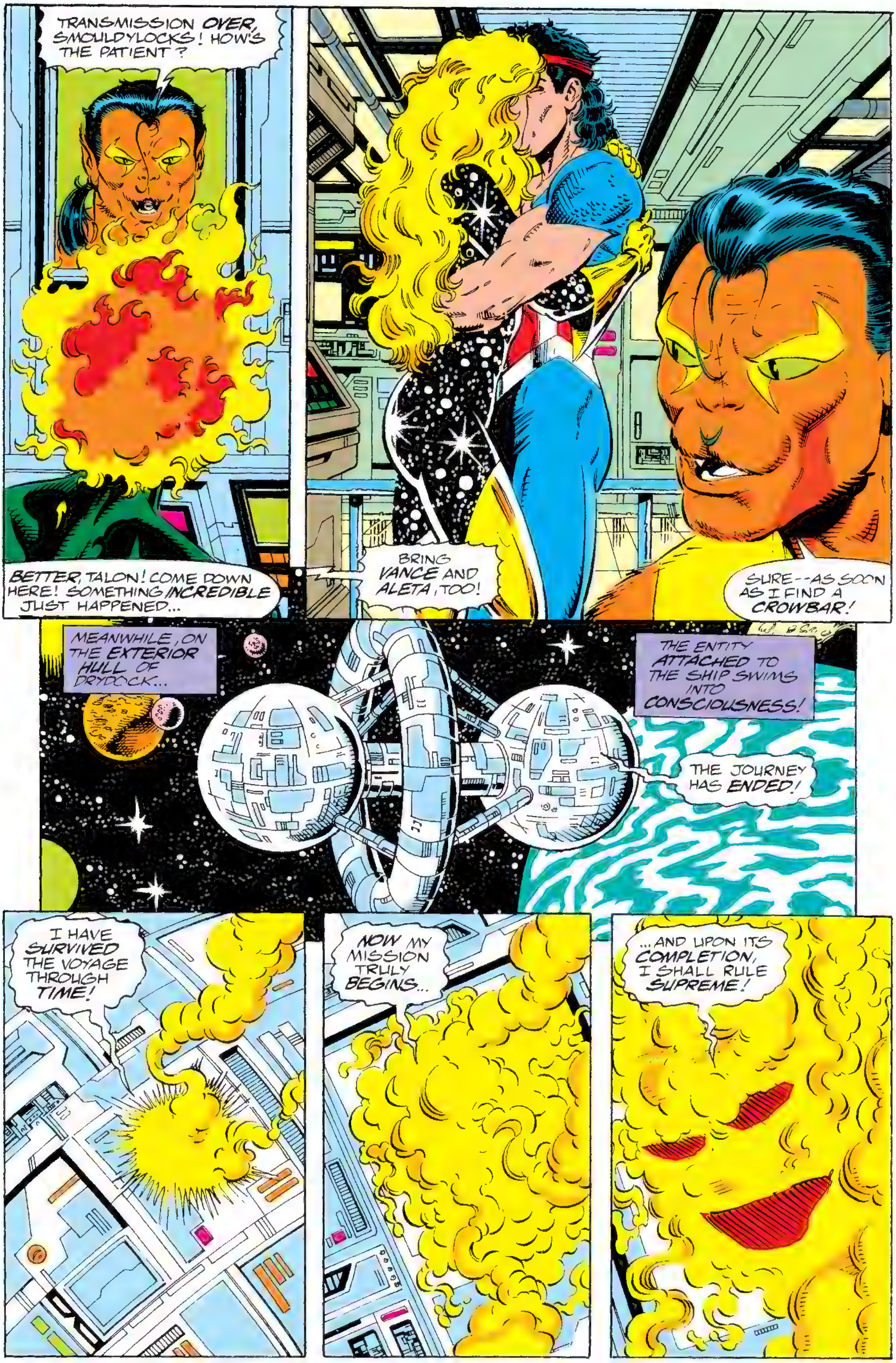
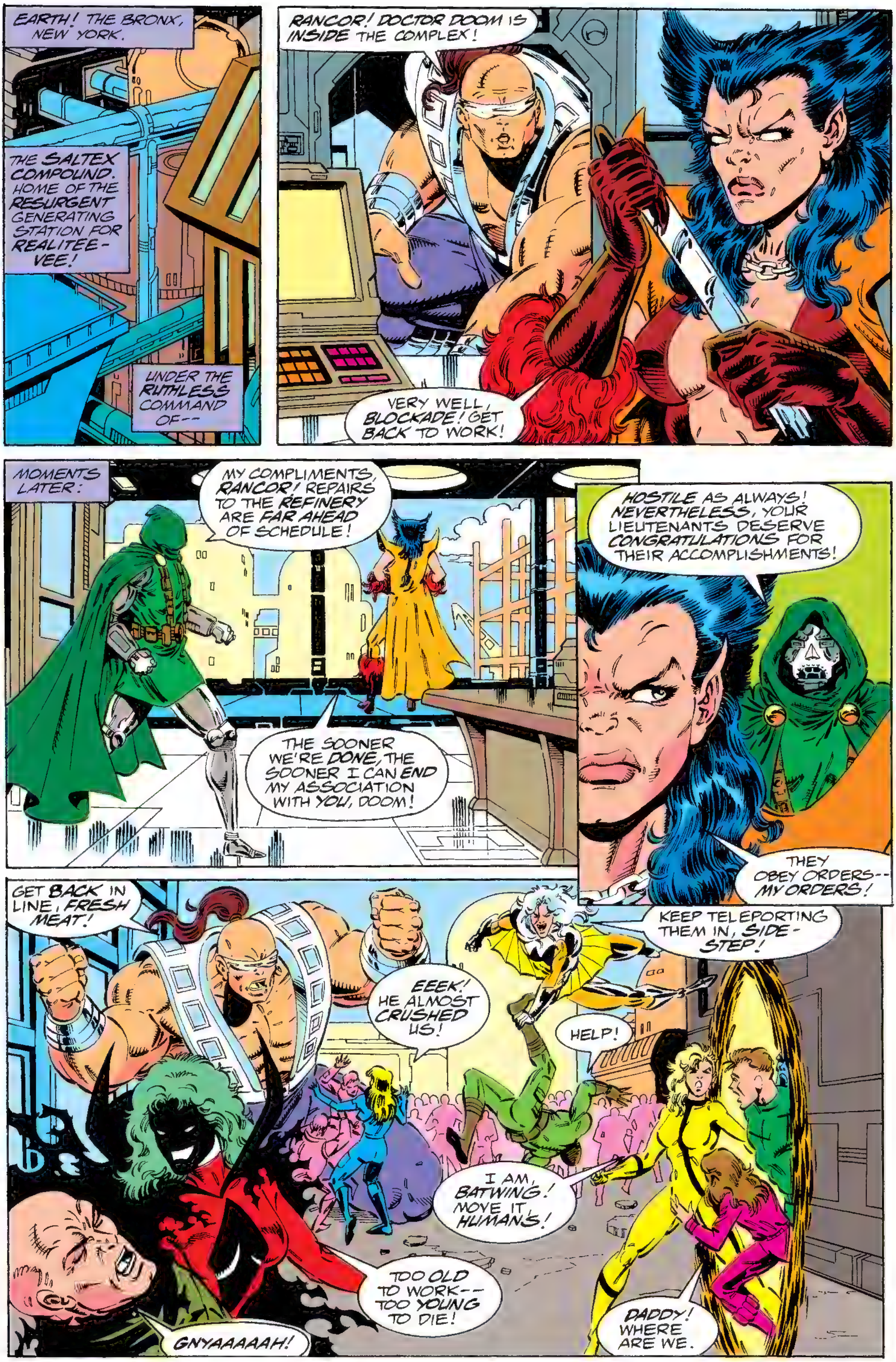
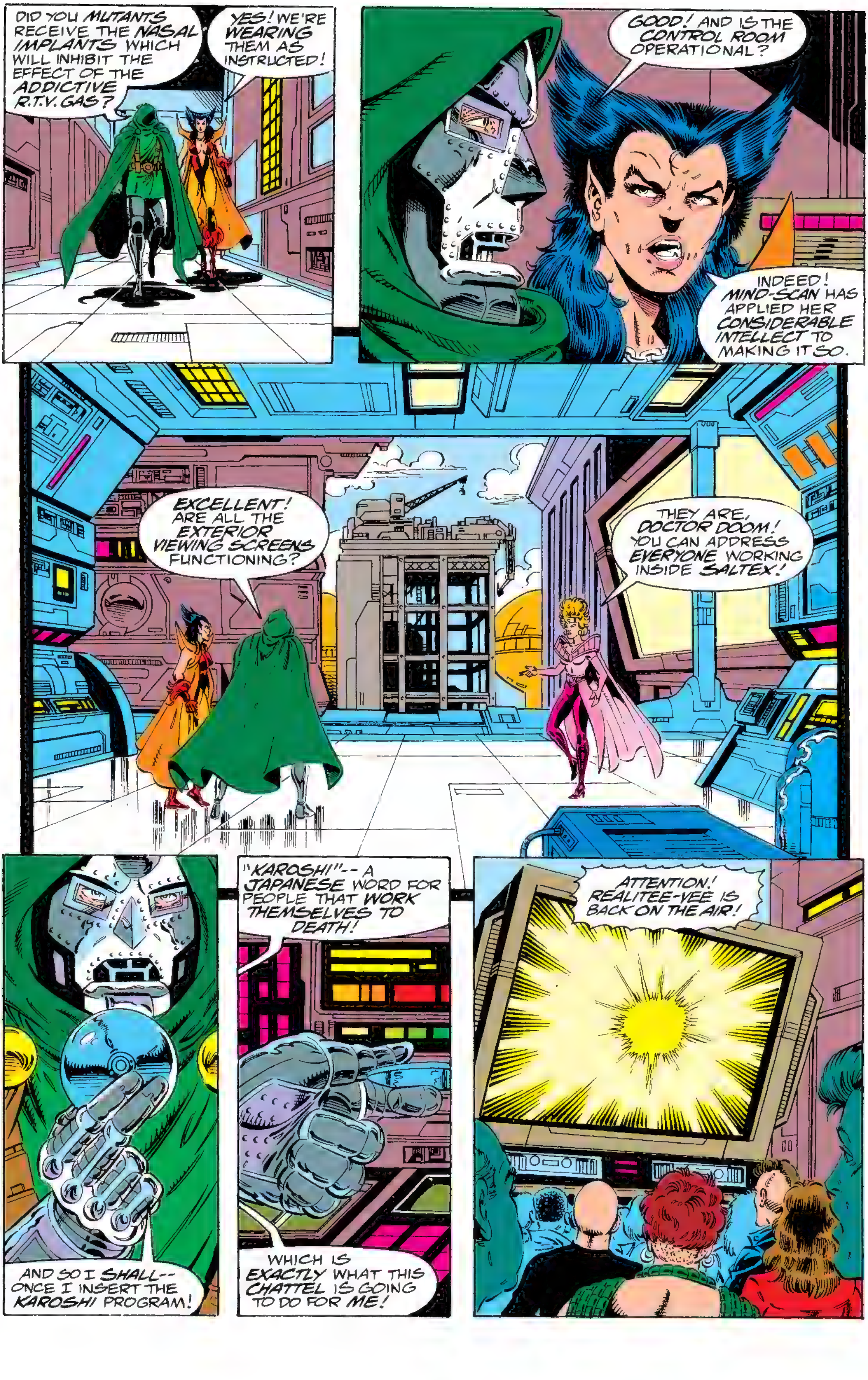

WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE TO SAVE HIM BEFORE HE CHOKES TO DEATH!
Y-YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO--
YOU GOT IT, FLAMETOP!
GERONIMO!
HRRRRCK...
NOT EXACTLY MY MOST GLAMOROUS MISSION TO DATE!
THERE'S THE PROBLEM! ALL THAT CONGEALED BLOOD AND TISSUE IS CLOGGING HIS WINDPIPE!
G-GG-GLLL...
ONE WELL-PLACED STING SHOULD LOOSEN IT UP!
ZRAP
SHLORCH

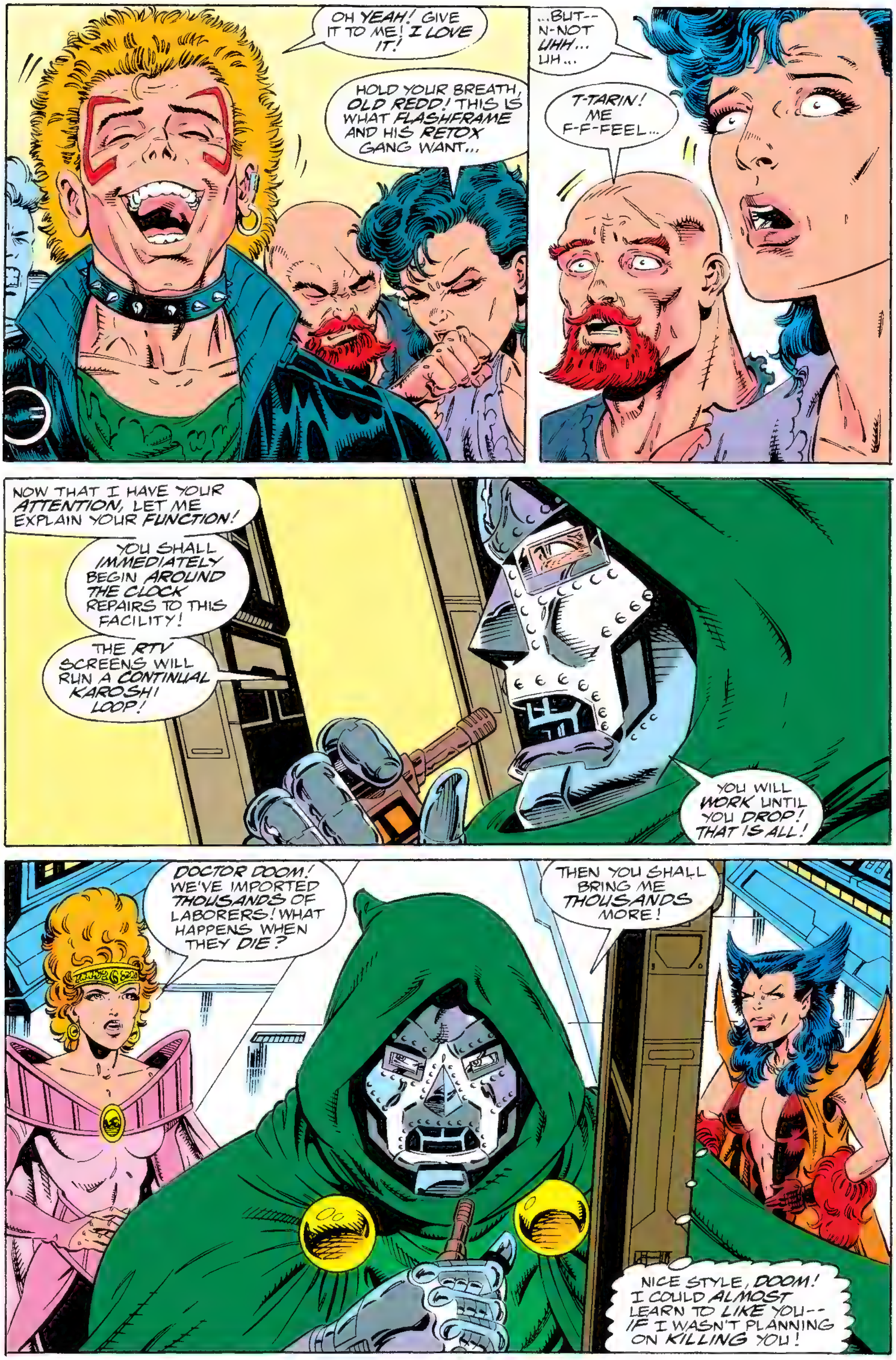

CHUNKY! WHAT IS IT? CAN YOU BREATHE?
YELLOWJACKET! ARE YOU IN THERE?
HUUUUHN... CH-CHUFFF-- GLUMMMMP...
FTOOOO!
YEE-HA! NOT ANYMORE!
HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE COMING BACK! HE'S OKAY!
YOU :CHOKE!: YOU DID IT!
OH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
WHOA! NO HUGGING TILL YOU TURN DOWN THAT HAIR!
NIKKI! I'VE GOT SOMEONE ON THE LINE WHO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!
PATCH IT THROUGH, TALON!

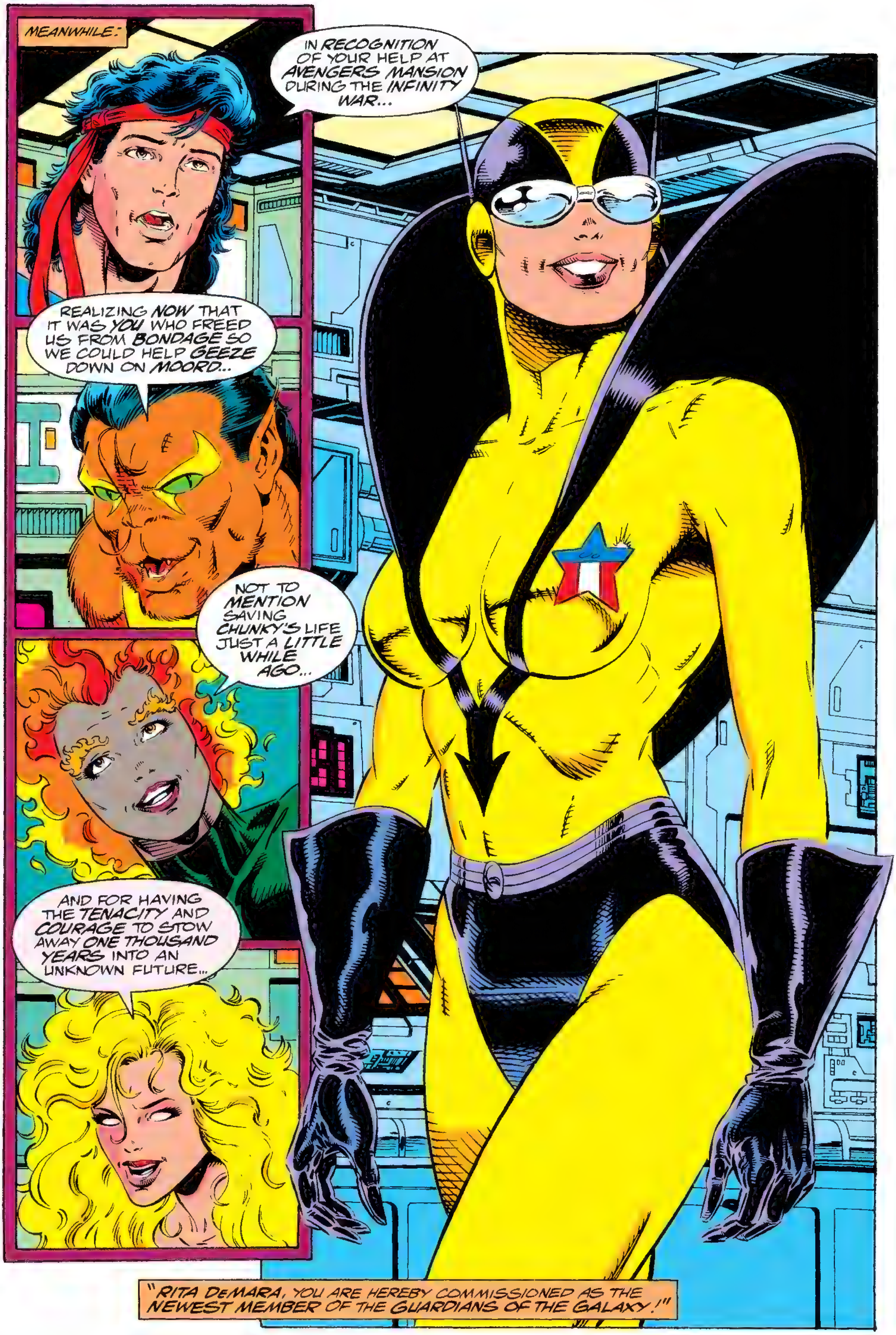

MARTINEX!
NICHOLETTE! HOW'S MY FAVORITE MERCURIAN?
I'M-- I'M HOLDING UP, MARTY! BUT CHUNKY...
REST EASY NOW, EXTRA LARGE!
HOW IS HE?
N-NOT TOO GOOD! ;SOB!; WE JUST AVERTED ONE CRISIS, BUT... ;CHOKE!; OH, MARTY--HE'S SO TORN UP INSIDE... ;HUCK!;
ALL RIGHT, NIKKI! HOLD ON, KID...
...I'M ON MY WAY! AND I'M BRINGING THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS WITH ME!

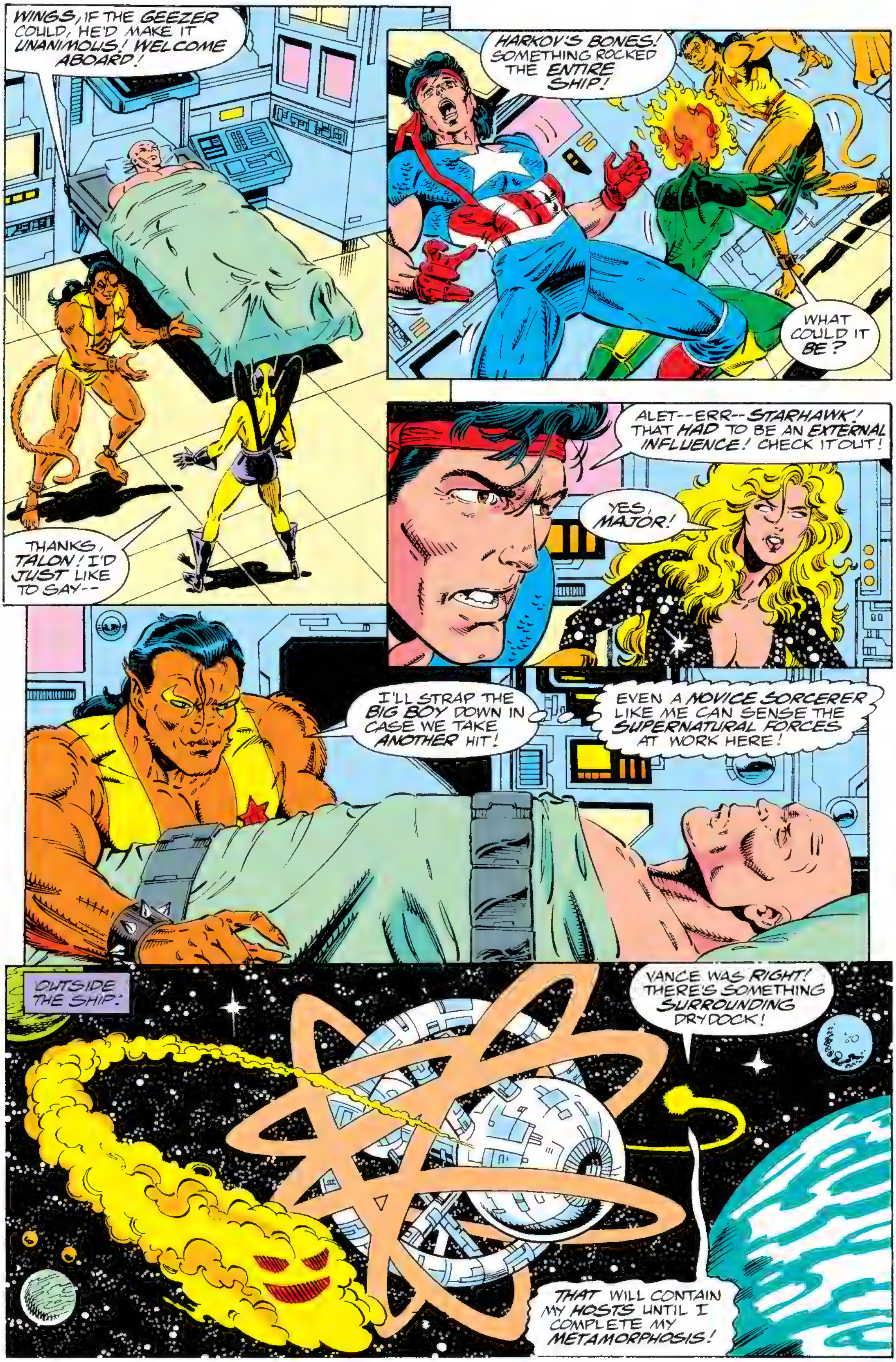

TRANSMISSION OVER, SMOULDYLOCKS! HOW'S THE PATIENT?
BETTER, TALON! COME DOWN HERE! SOMETHING INCREDIBLE JUST HAPPENED...
BRING VANCE AND ALETA, TOO!
SURE--AS SOON AS I FIND A CROWBAR!
MEANWHILE, ON THE EXTERIOR HULL OF DRYDOCK...
THE ENTITY ATTACHED TO THE SHIP SWIMS INTO CONSCIOUSNESS!
THE JOURNEY HAS ENDED!
I HAVE SURVIVED THE VOYAGE THROUGH TIME!
NOW MY MISSION TRULY BEGINS...
...AND UPON ITS COMPLETION, I SHALL RULE SUPREME!

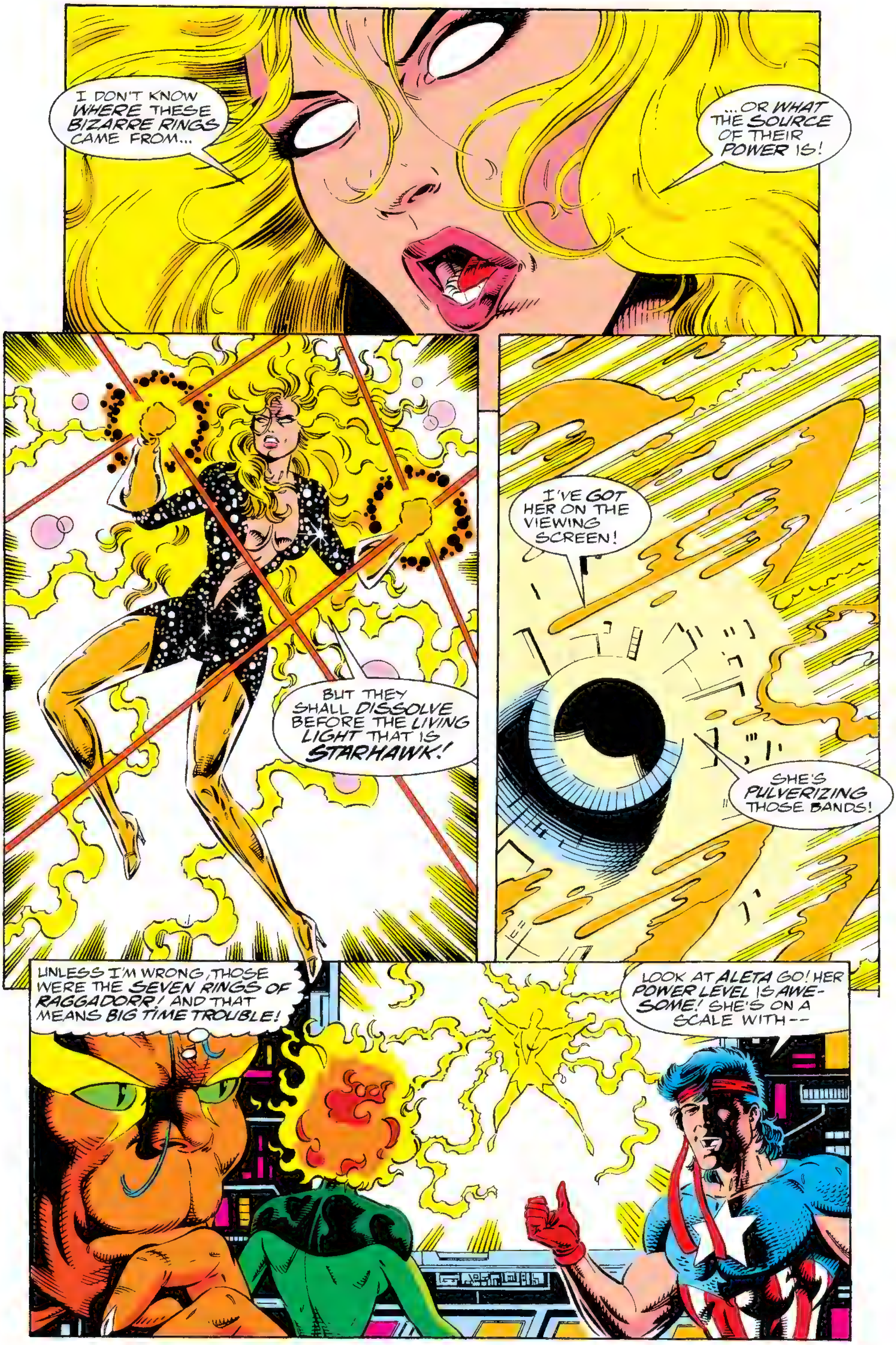

EARTH! THE BRONX, NEW YORK.
THE SALTEX COMPOUND. HOME OF THE RESURGENT GENERATING STATION FOR REALITEE-VEE!
UNDER THE RUTHLESS COMMAND OF--
RANCOR! DOCTOR DOOM IS INSIDE THE COMPLEX!
VERY WELL, BLOCKADE! GET BACK TO WORK!
MOMENTS LATER:
MY COMPLIMENTS, RANCOR! REPAIRS TO THE REFINERY ARE FAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!
THE SOONER WE'RE DONE, THE SOONER I CAN END MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU, DOOM!
HOSTILE AS ALWAYS! NEVERTHELESS, YOUR LIEUTENANTS DESERVE CONGRATULATIONS FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!
THEY OBEY ORDERS-- MY ORDERS!
GET BACK IN LINE, FRESH MEAT!
KEEP TELEPORTING THEM IN, SIDE-STEP!
EEEK! HE ALMOST CRUSHED US!
HELP!
I AM BATWING! MOVE IT, HUMANS!
TOO OLD TO WORK-- TOO YOUNG TO DIE!
GNYAAAAAH!
DADDY! WHERE ARE WE.

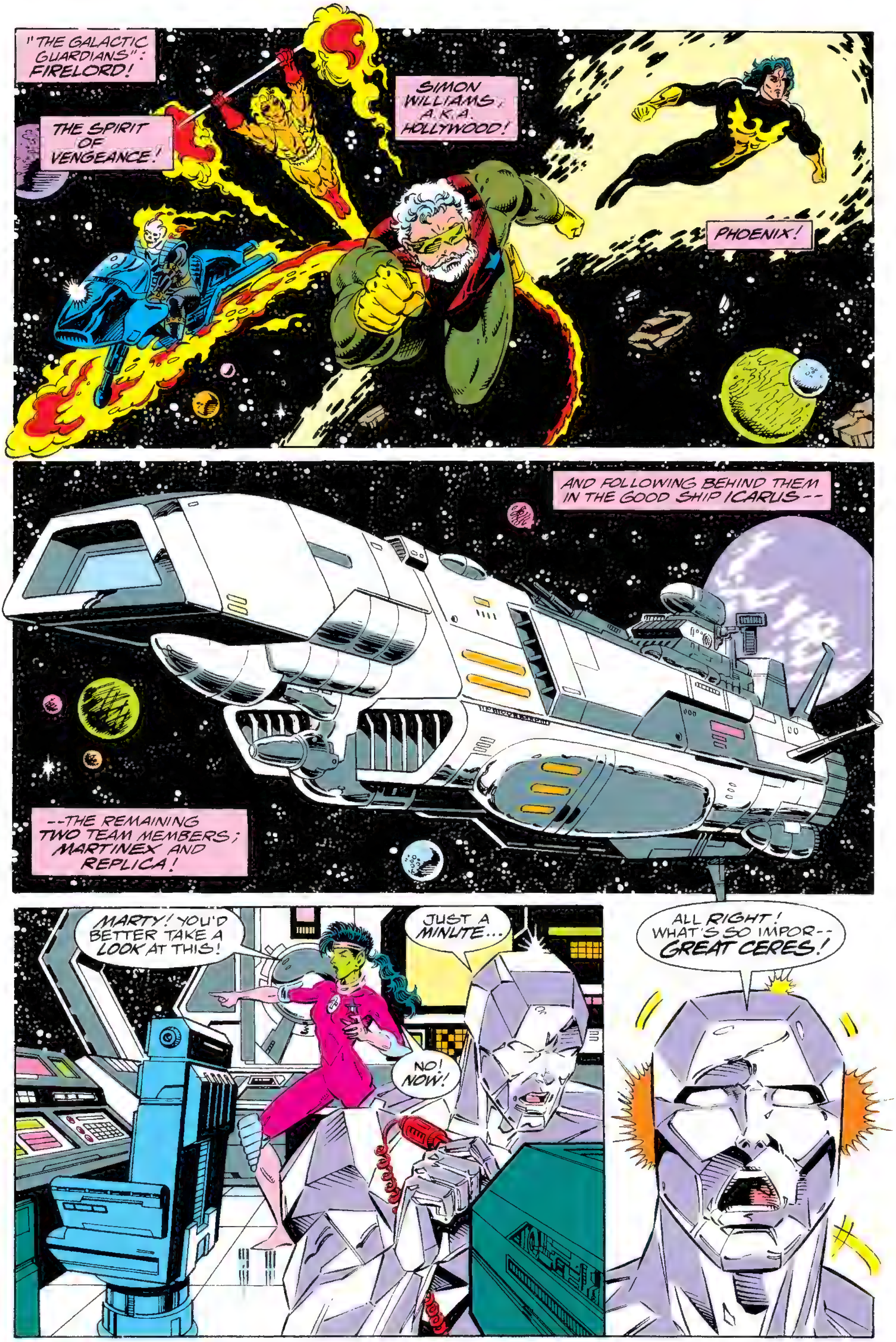

DID YOU MUTANTS RECEIVE THE NASAL IMPLANTS WHICH WILL INHIBIT THE EFFECT OF THE ADDICTIVE R.T.V. GAS?
YES! WE'RE WEARING THEM AS INSTRUCTED!
GOOD! AND IS THE CONTROL ROOM OPERATIONAL?
INDEED! MIND-SCAN HAS APPLIED HER CONSIDERABLE INTELLECT TO MAKING IT SO.
EXCELLENT! ARE ALL THE EXTERIOR VIEWING SCREENS FUNCTIONING?
THEY ARE, DOCTOR DOOM! YOU CAN ADDRESS EVERYONE WORKING INSIDE SALTEX!
AND SO I SHALL-- ONCE I INSERT THE KAROSHI PROGRAM!
"KAROSHI"-- A JAPANESE WORD FOR PEOPLE THAT WORK THEMSELVES TO DEATH!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS CHATTEL IS GOING TO DO FOR ME!
ATTENTION! REALITEE-VEE IS BACK ON THE AIR!

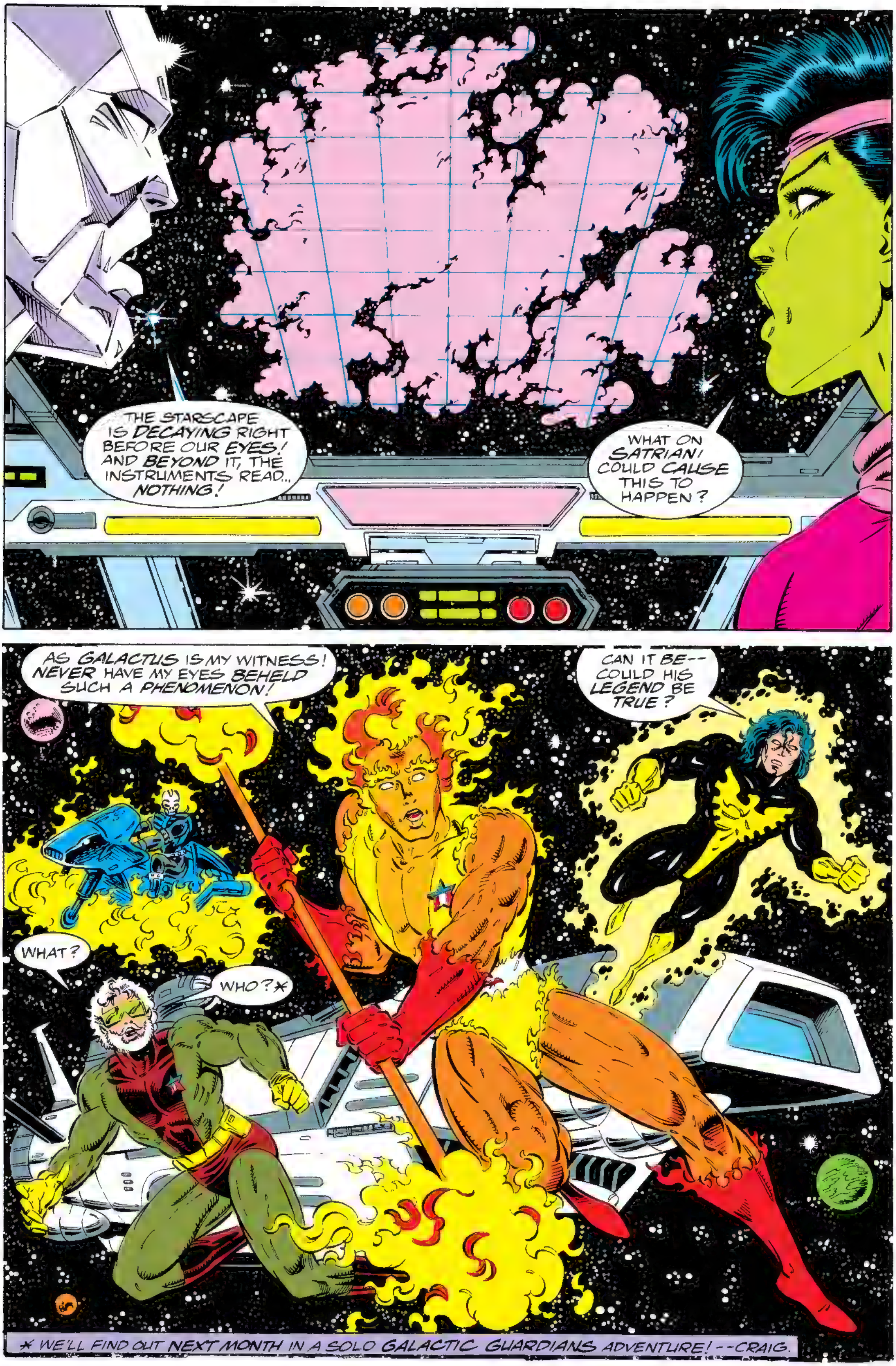

OH YEAH! GIVE IT TO ME! I LOVE IT!
HOLD YOUR BREATH, OLD REDD! THIS IS WHAT FLASHFRAME AND HIS RETOX GANG WANT...
...BUT-- N-NOT UHH... UH...
T-TARIN! ME F-F-FEEL...
NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, LET ME EXPLAIN YOUR FUNCTION!
YOU SHALL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN AROUND THE CLOCK REPAIRS TO THIS FACILITY!
THE RTV SCREENS WILL RUN A CONTINUAL KAROSHI LOOP!
YOU WILL WORK UNTIL YOU DROP! THAT IS ALL!
DOCTOR DOOM! WE'VE IMPORTED THOUSANDS OF LABORERS! WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY DIE?
THEN YOU SHALL BRING ME THOUSANDS MORE!
NICE STYLE, DOOM! I COULD ALMOST LEARN TO LIKE YOU-- IF I WASN'T PLANNING ON KILLING YOU!

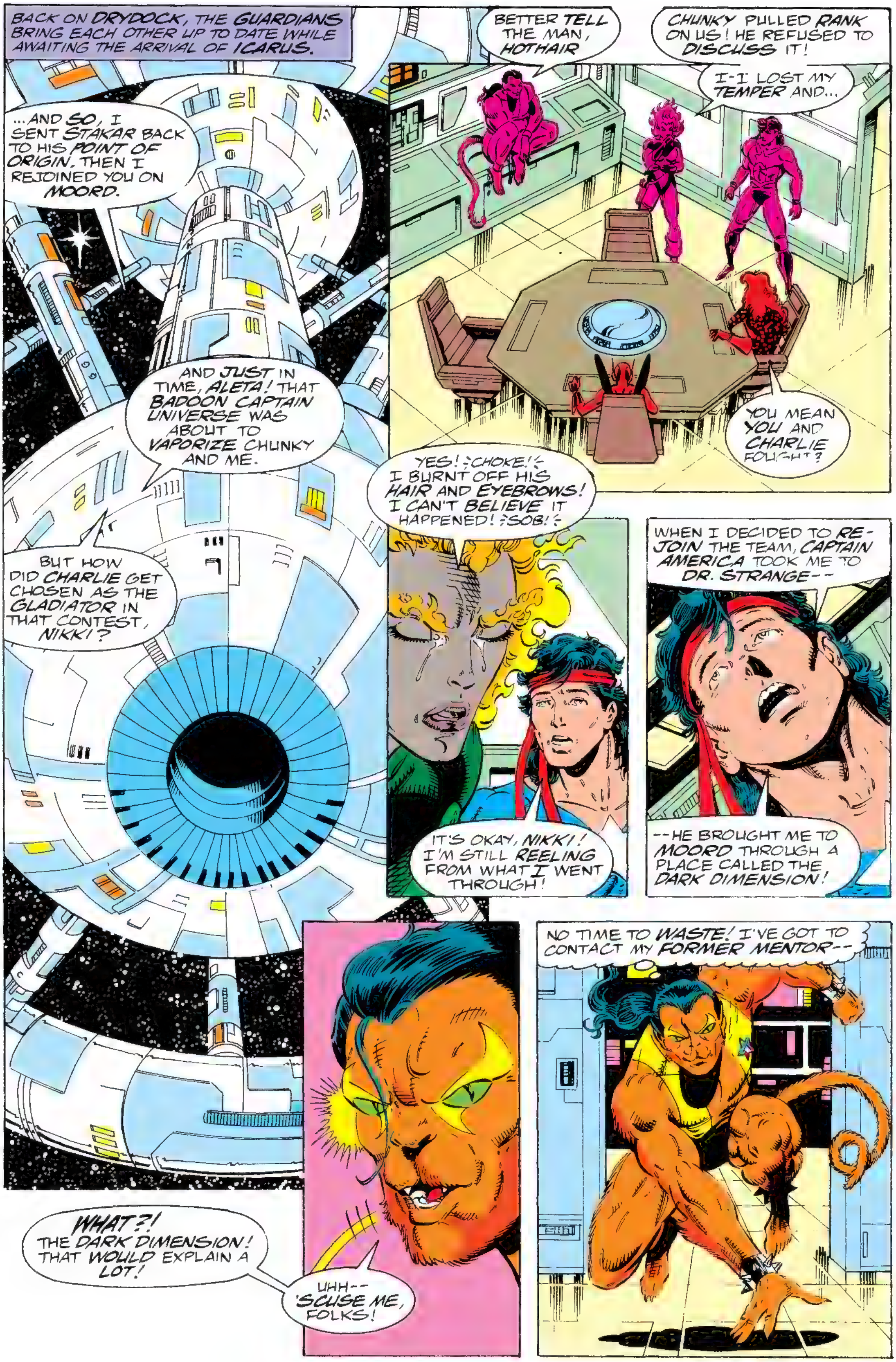

MEANWHILE:
IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR HELP AT AVENGERS MANSION DURING THE INFINITY WAR...
REALIZING NOW THAT IT WAS YOU WHO FREED US FROM BONDAGE SO WE COULD HELP GEEZE DOWN ON MOORD...
NOT TO MENTION SAVING CHUNKY'S LIFE JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
AND FOR HAVING THE TENACITY AND COURAGE TO STOW AWAY ONE THOUSAND YEARS INTO AN UNKNOWN FUTURE...
"RITA DEMARA, YOU ARE HEREBY COMMISSIONED AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!"

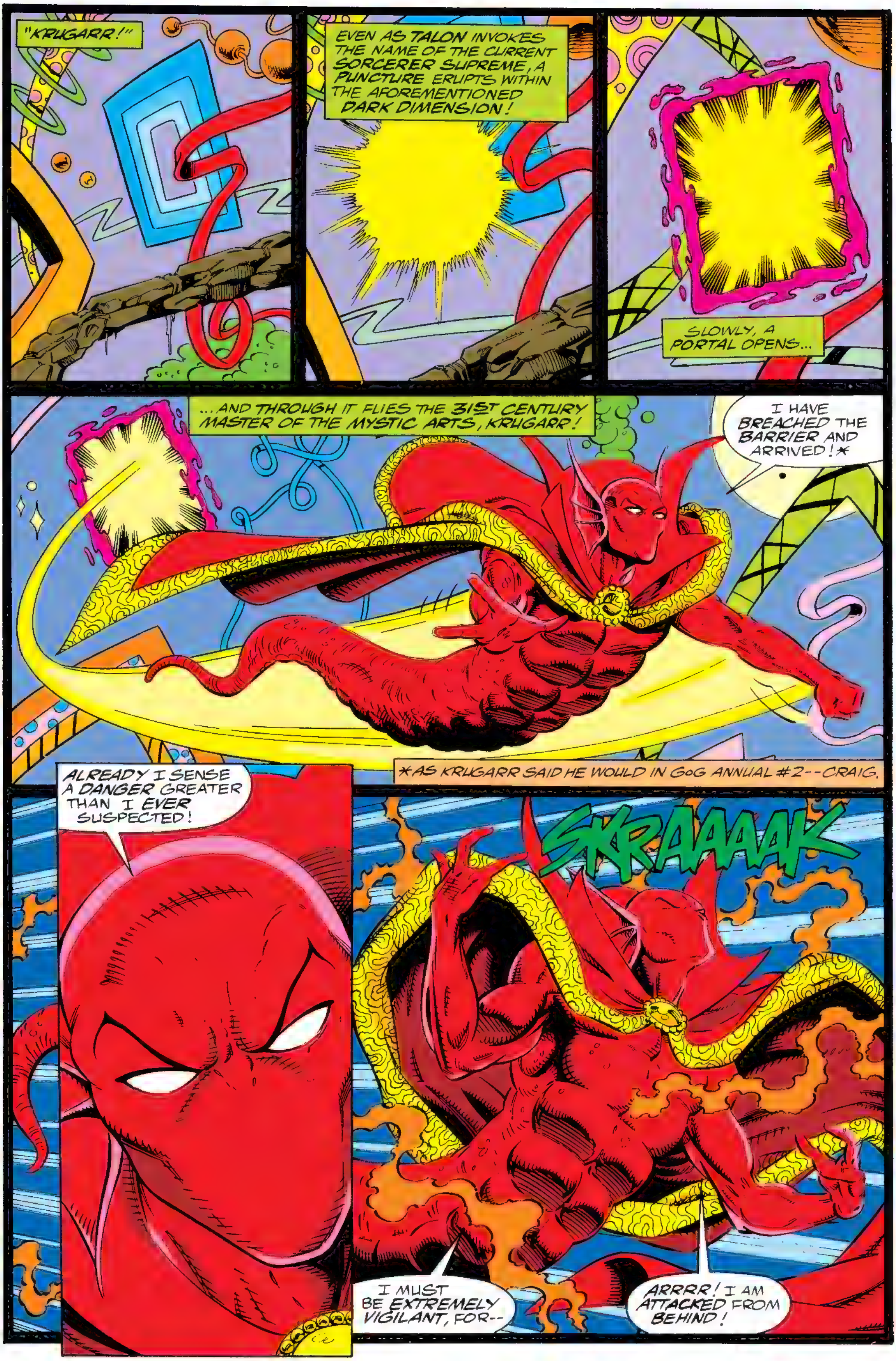

WINGS, IF THE GEEZER COULD, HE'D MAKE IT UNANIMOUS! WELCOME ABOARD!
THANKS, TALON! I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY--
HARKOV'S BONES! SOMETHING ROCKED THE ENTIRE SHIP!
WHAT COULD IT BE?
ALET--ERR--STARHAWK! THAT HAD TO BE AN EXTERNAL INFLUENCE! CHECK IT OUT!
YES, MAJOR!
I'LL STRAP THE BIG BOY DOWN IN CASE WE TAKE ANOTHER HIT!
EVEN A NOVICE SORCERER LIKE ME CAN SENSE THE SUPERNATURAL FORCES AT WORK HERE!
OUTSIDE THE SHIP:
VANCE WAS RIGHT! THERE'S SOMETHING SURROUNDING DRYDOCK!
THAT WILL CONTAIN MY HOSTS UNTIL I COMPLETE MY METAMORPHOSIS!

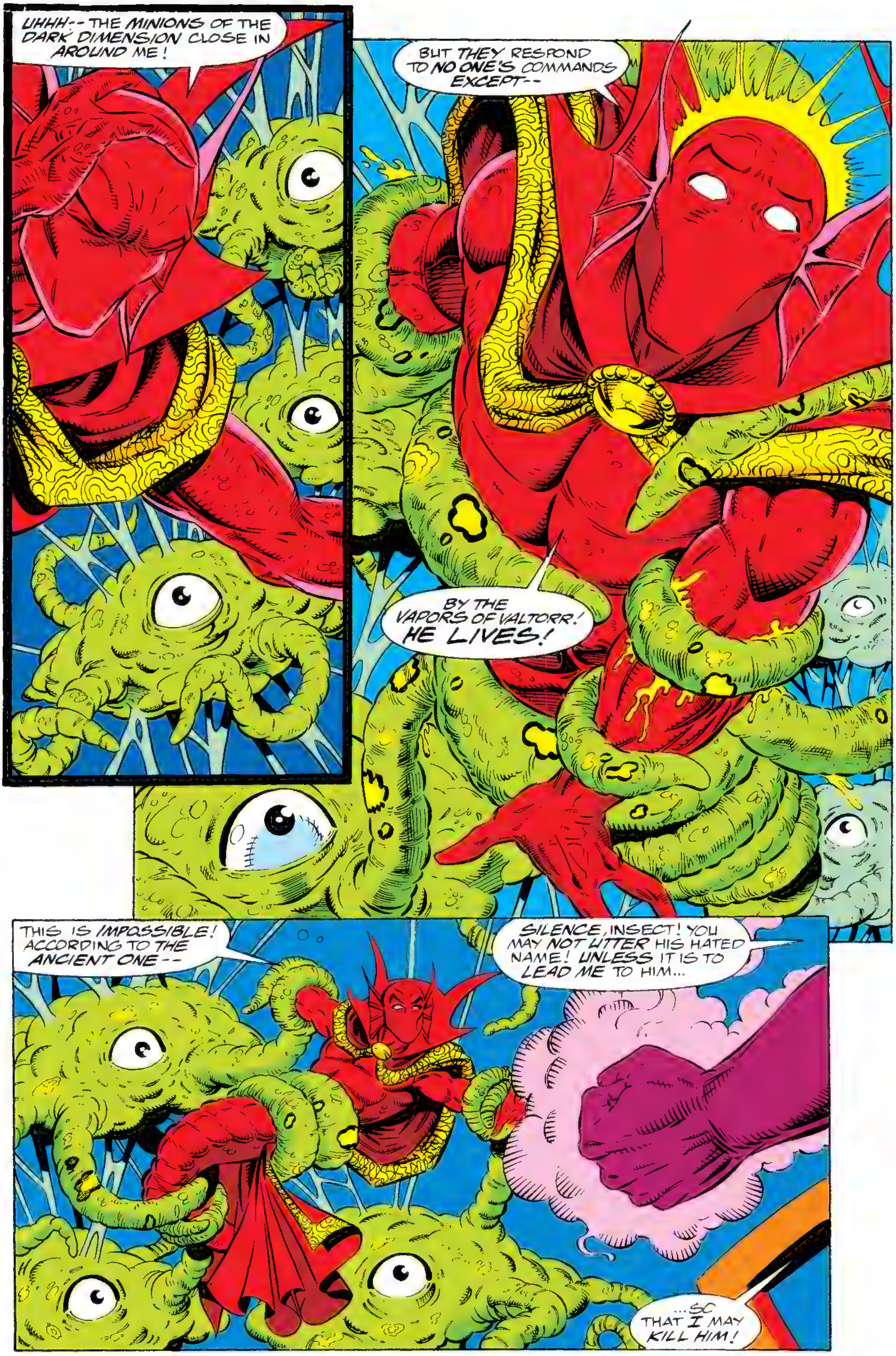

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THESE BIZARRE RINGS CAME FROM...
...OR WHAT THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWER IS!
BUT THEY SHALL DISSOLVE BEFORE THE LIVING LIGHT THAT IS STARHAWK!
I'VE GOT HER ON THE VIEWING SCREEN!
SHE'S PULVERIZING THOSE BANDS!
UNLESS I'M WRONG, THOSE WERE THE SEVEN RINGS OF RAGGADORR! AND THAT MEANS BIG TIME TROUBLE!
LOOK AT ALETA GO! HER POWER LEVEL IS AWESOME! SHE'S ON A SCALE WITH--

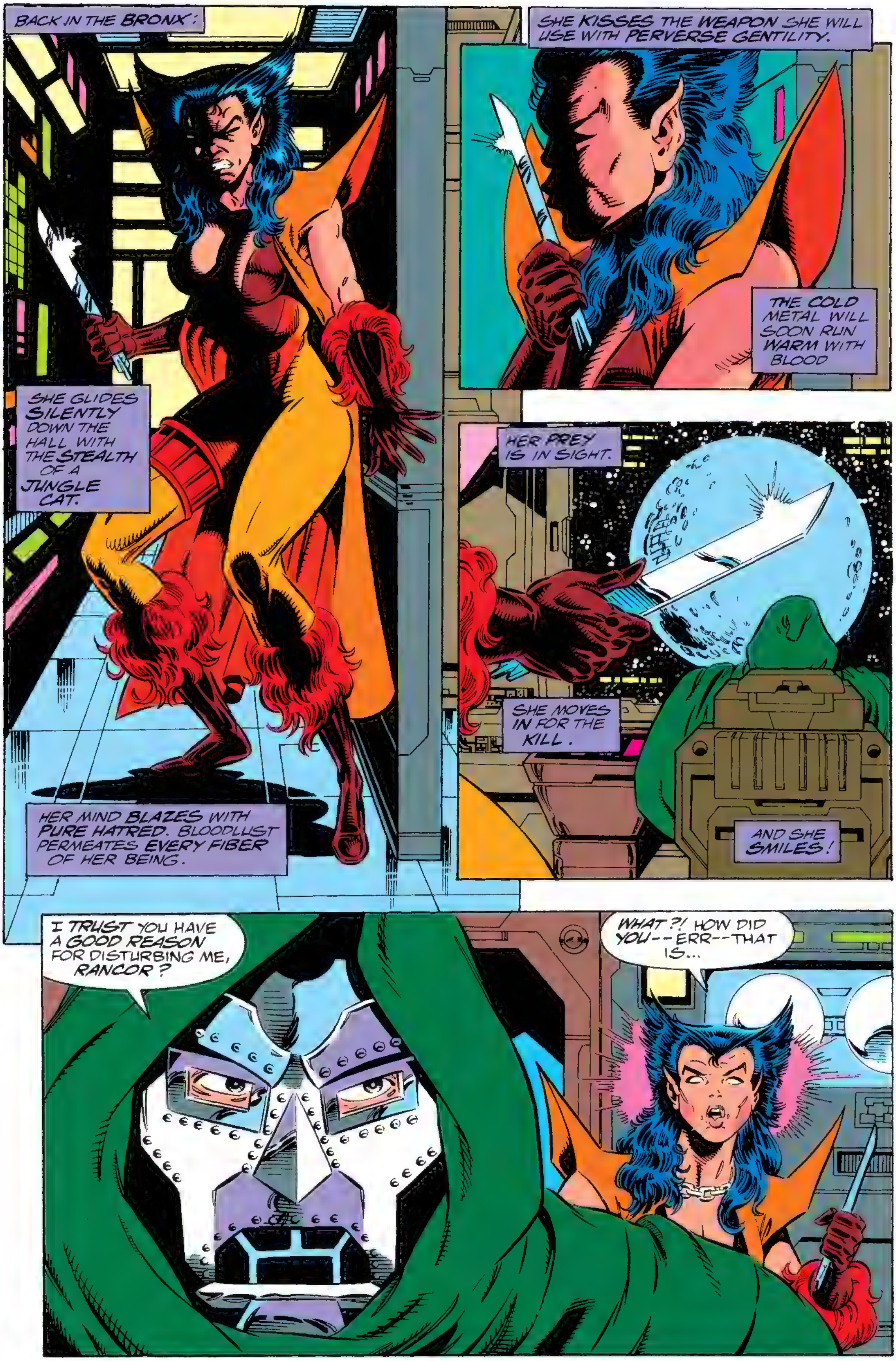

"THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS": FIRELORD!
THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!
SIMON WILLIAMS, A.K.A. HOLLYWOOD!
PHOENIX!
AND FOLLOWING BEHIND THEM IN THE GOOD SHIP ICARUS--
--THE REMAINING TWO TEAM MEMBERS; MARTINEX AND REPLICA!
MARTY! YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
JUST A MINUTE...
NO! NOW!
ALL RIGHT! WHAT'S SO IMPOR-- GREAT CERES!

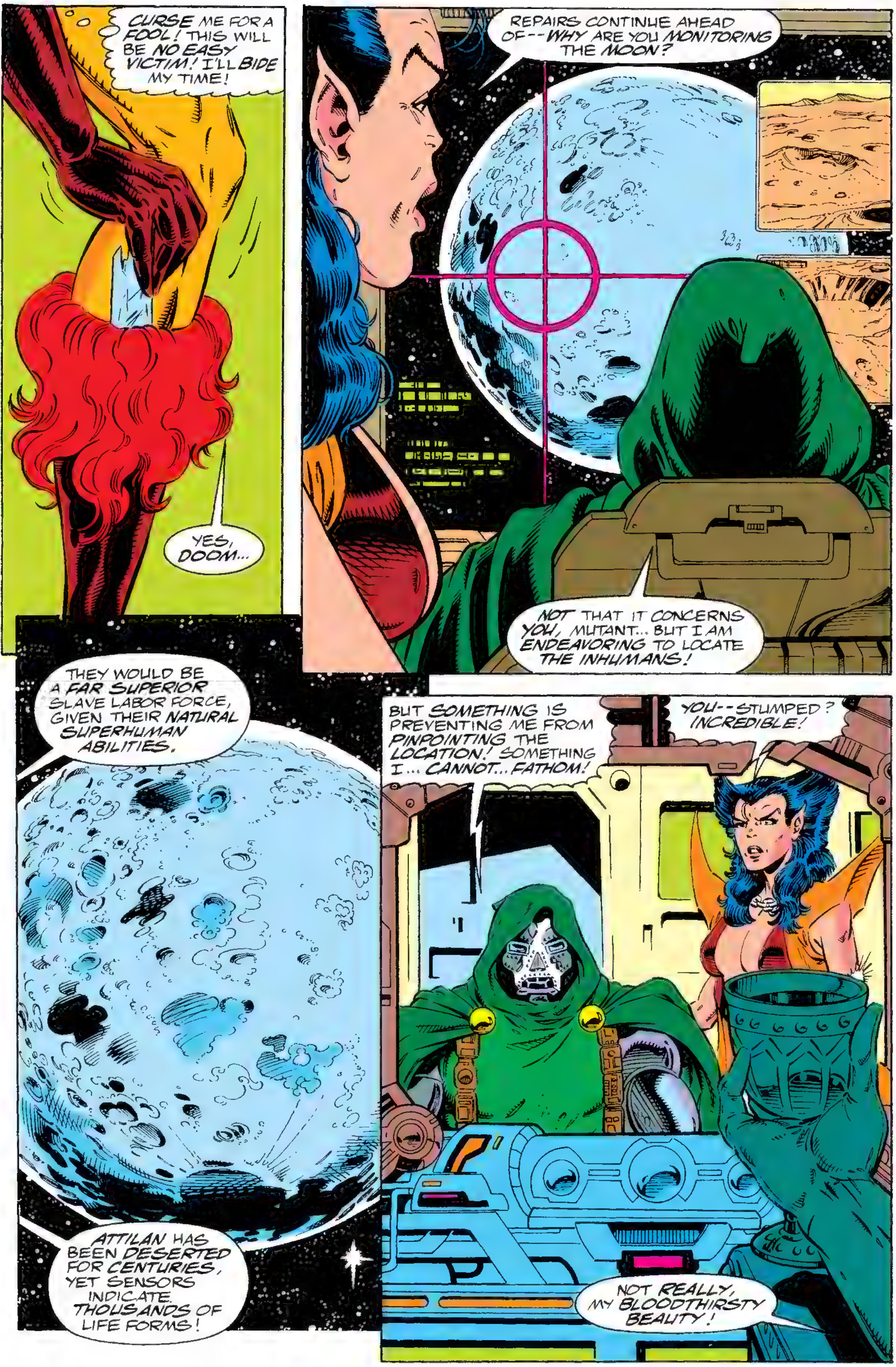

THE STARSCAPE IS DECAYING RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES! AND BEYOND IT, THE INSTRUMENTS READ... NOTHING!
WHAT ON SATRIANI COULD CAUSE THIS TO HAPPEN?
AS GALACTUS IS MY WITNESS! NEVER HAVE MY EYES BEHELD SUCH A PHENOMENON!
CAN IT BE-- COULD HIS LEGEND BE TRUE?
WHAT?
WHO?*
* WE'LL FIND OUT NEXT MONTH IN A SOLO GALACTIC GUARDIANS ADVENTURE! --CRAIG.

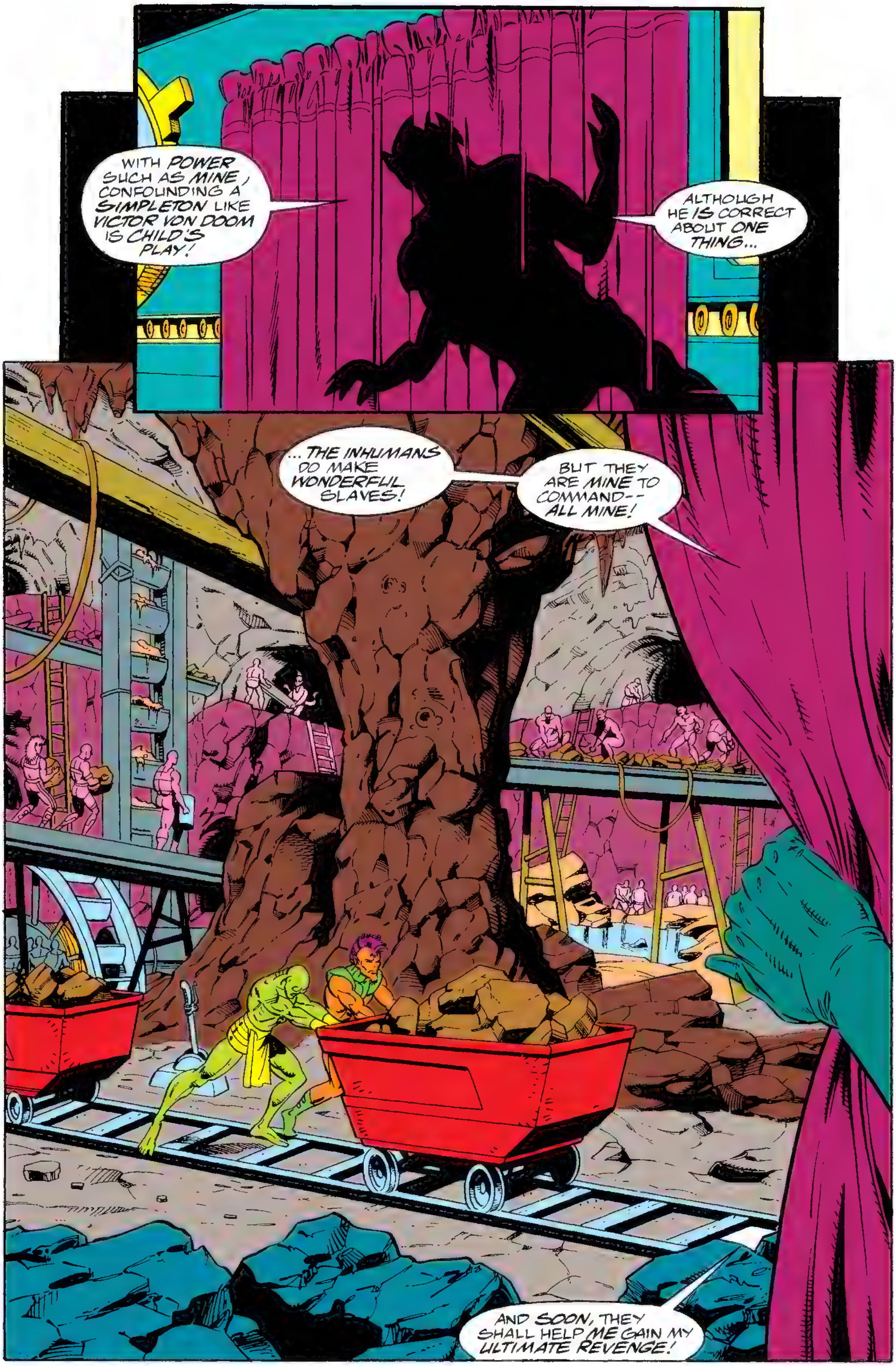

BACK ON DRYDOCK, THE GUARDIANS BRING EACH OTHER UP TO DATE WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF ICARUS.
...AND SO, I SENT STAKAR BACK TO HIS POINT OF ORIGIN. THEN I REJOINED YOU ON MOORD.
AND JUST IN TIME, ALETA! THAT BADOON CAPTAIN UNIVERSE WAS ABOUT TO VAPORIZE CHUNKY AND ME.
BUT HOW DID CHARLIE GET CHOSEN AS THE GLADIATOR IN THAT CONTEST, NIKKI?
BETTER TELL THE MAN, HOTHAIR
CHUNKY PULLED RANK ON US! HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS IT!
I-I LOST MY TEMPER AND...
YOU MEAN YOU AND CHARLIE FOUGHT?
YES! ¿CHOKE!¿ I BURNT OFF HIS HAIR AND EYEBROWS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED! ¿SOB!¿
IT'S OKAY, NIKKI! I'M STILL REELING FROM WHAT I WENT THROUGH!
WHEN I DECIDED TO REJOIN THE TEAM, CAPTAIN AMERICA TOOK ME TO DR. STRANGE--
--HE BROUGHT ME TO MOORD THROUGH A PLACE CALLED THE DARK DIMENSION!
WHAT?! THE DARK DIMENSION! THAT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT!
UHH-- 'SCUSE ME, FOLKS!
NO TIME TO WASTE! I'VE GOT TO CONTACT MY FORMER MENTOR--

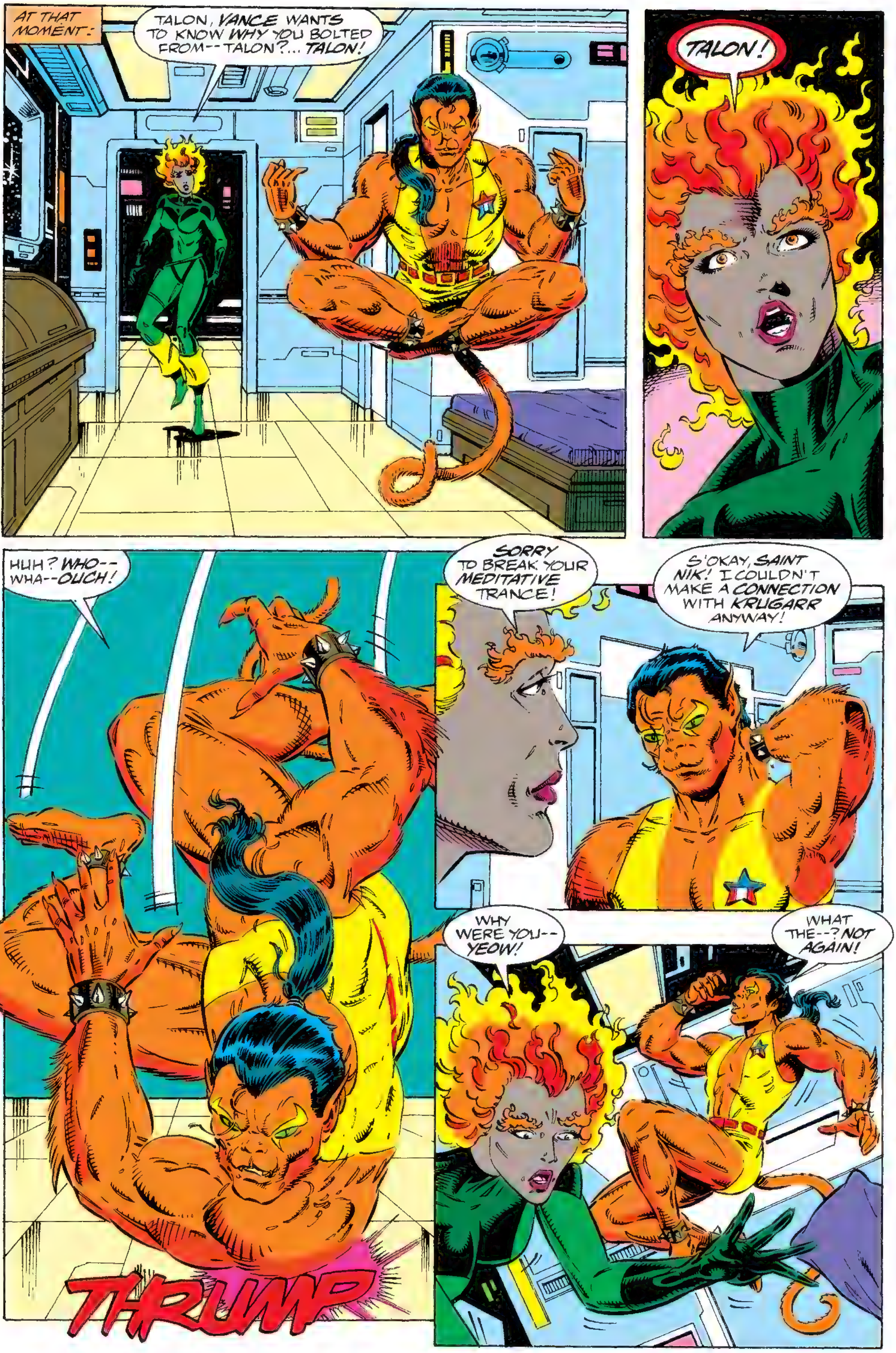

"KRUGARR!"
EVEN AS TALON INVOKES THE NAME OF THE CURRENT SORCERER SUPREME, A PUNCTURE ERUPTS WITHIN THE AFOREMENTIONED DARK DIMENSION!
SLOWLY, A PORTAL OPENS...
...AND THROUGH IT FLIES THE 31ST CENTURY MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, KRUGARR!
I HAVE BREACHED THE BARRIER AND ARRIVED!*
*AS KRUGARR SAID HE WOULD IN GoG ANNUAL #2--CRAIG.
ALREADY I SENSE A DANGER GREATER THAN I EVER SUSPECTED!
SKRAAAAK
I MUST BE EXTREMELY VIGILANT, FOR--
ARRRR! I AM ATTACKED FROM BEHIND!

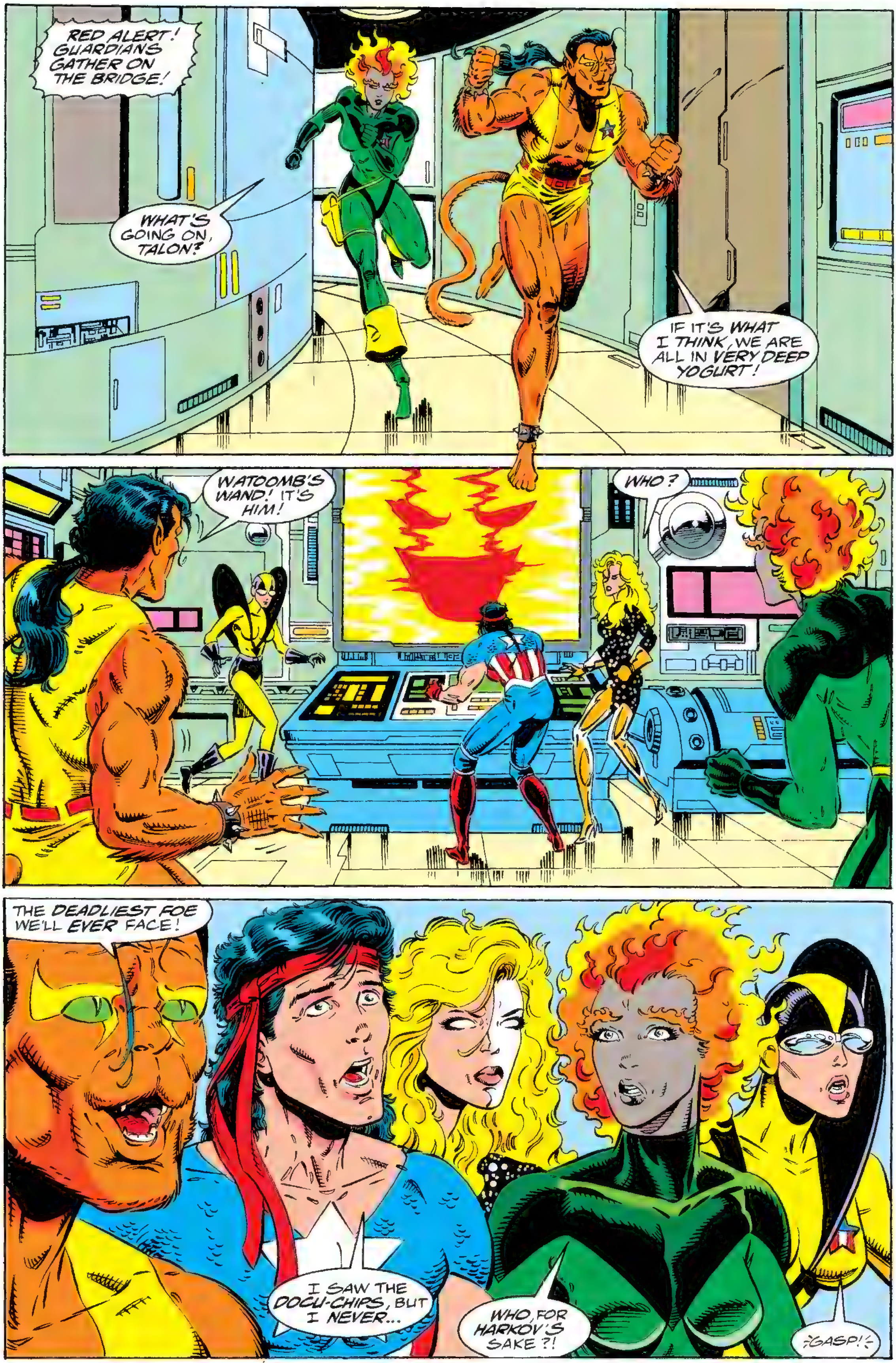

UHHH-- THE MINIONS OF THE DARK DIMENSION CLOSE IN AROUND ME!
BUT THEY RESPOND TO NO ONE'S COMMANDS EXCEPT--
BY THE VAPORS OF VALTORR! HE LIVES!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! ACCORDING TO THE ANCIENT ONE--
SILENCE, INSECT! YOU MAY NOT UTTER HIS HATED NAME! UNLESS IT IS TO LEAD ME TO HIM...
...SO THAT I MAY KILL HIM!

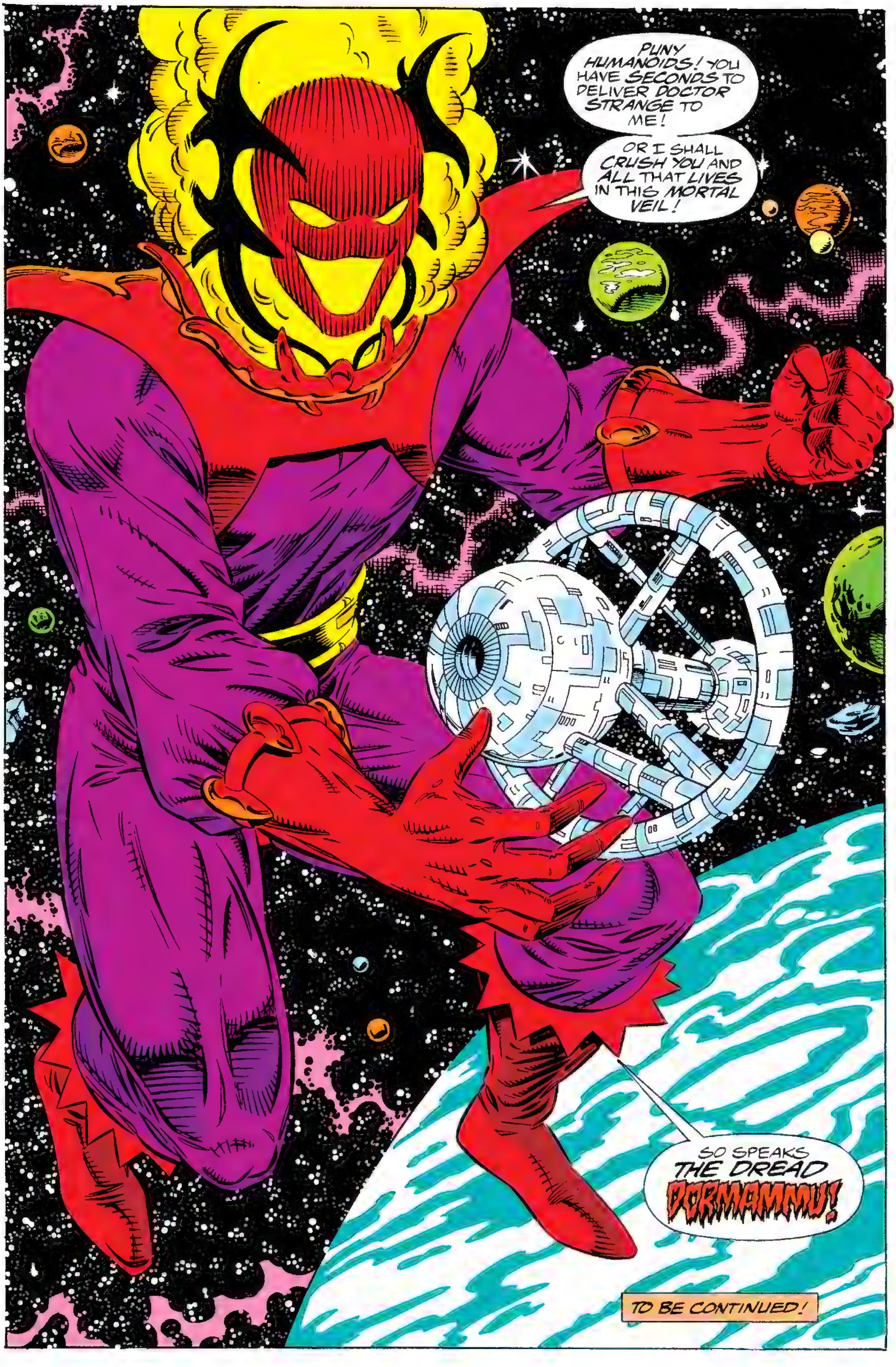

BACK IN THE BRONX:
SHE GLIDES SILENTLY DOWN THE HALL WITH THE STEALTH OF A JUNGLE CAT.
HER MIND BLAZES WITH PURE HATRED. BLOODLUST PERMEATES EVERY FIBER OF HER BEING.
SHE KISSES THE WEAPON SHE WILL USE WITH PERVERSE GENTILITY.
THE COLD METAL WILL SOON RUN WARM WITH BLOOD
HER PREY IS IN SIGHT.
SHE MOVES IN FOR THE KILL.
AND SHE SMILES!
I TRUST YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR DISTURBING ME, RANCOR?
WHAT?! HOW DID YOU--ERR--THAT IS...

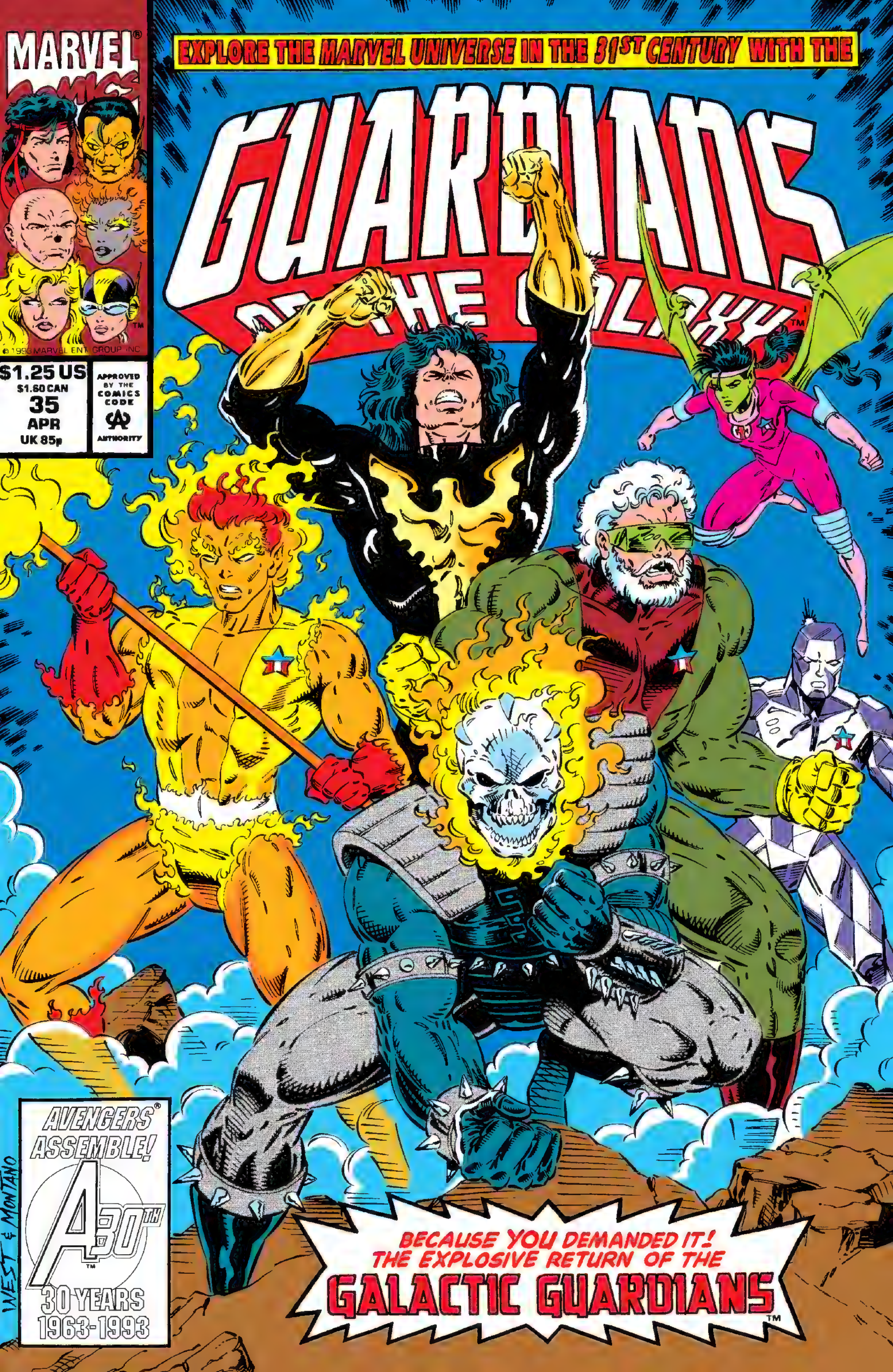

CURSE ME FOR A FOOL! THIS WILL BE NO EASY VICTIM! I'LL BIDE MY TIME!
YES, DOOM...
REPAIRS CONTINUE AHEAD OF--WHY ARE YOU MONITORING THE MOON?
NOT THAT IT CONCERNS YOU, MUTANT... BUT I AM ENDEAVORING TO LOCATE THE INHUMANS!
THEY WOULD BE A FAR SUPERIOR SLAVE LABOR FORCE, GIVEN THEIR NATURAL SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES.
ATTILAN HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR CENTURIES, YET SENSORS INDICATE THOUSANDS OF LIFE FORMS!
BUT SOMETHING IS PREVENTING ME FROM PINPOINTING THE LOCATION! SOMETHING I... CANNOT... FATHOM!
YOU--STUMPED? INCREDIBLE!
NOT REALLY, MY BLOODTHIRSTY BEAUTY!


WITH POWER SUCH AS MINE, CONFOUNDING A SIMPLETON LIKE VICTOR VON DOOM IS CHILD'S PLAY!
ALTHOUGH HE IS CORRECT ABOUT ONE THING...
...THE INHUMANS DO MAKE WONDERFUL SLAVES!
BUT THEY ARE MINE TO COMMAND-- ALL MINE!
AND SOON, THEY SHALL HELP ME GAIN MY ULTIMATE REVENGE!


AT THAT MOMENT:
TALON, VANCE WANTS TO KNOW WHY YOU BOLTED FROM-- TALON?... TALON!
TALON!
HUH? WHO-- WHA--OUCH!
THRUMP
SORRY TO BREAK YOUR MEDITATIVE TRANCE!
S'OKAY, SAINT NIK! I COULDN'T MAKE A CONNECTION WITH KRUGARR ANYWAY!
WHY WERE YOU-- YEOW!
WHAT THE--? NOT AGAIN!


RED ALERT! GUARDIANS GATHER ON THE BRIDGE!
WHAT'S GOING ON, TALON?
IF IT'S WHAT I THINK, WE ARE ALL IN VERY DEEP YOGURT!
WATOOMB'S WAND! IT'S HIM!
WHO?
THE DEADLIEST FOE WE'LL EVER FACE!
I SAW THE DOCU-CHIPS, BUT I NEVER...
WHO, FOR HARKOV'S SAKE?!
GASP!


PUNY HUMANOIDS! YOU HAVE SECONDS TO DELIVER DOCTOR STRANGE TO ME!
OR I SHALL CRUSH YOU AND ALL THAT LIVES IN THIS MORTAL VEIL!
SO SPEAKS THE DREAD DORMAMMU!
TO BE CONTINUED!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THE EXPLOSIVE RETURN OF THE
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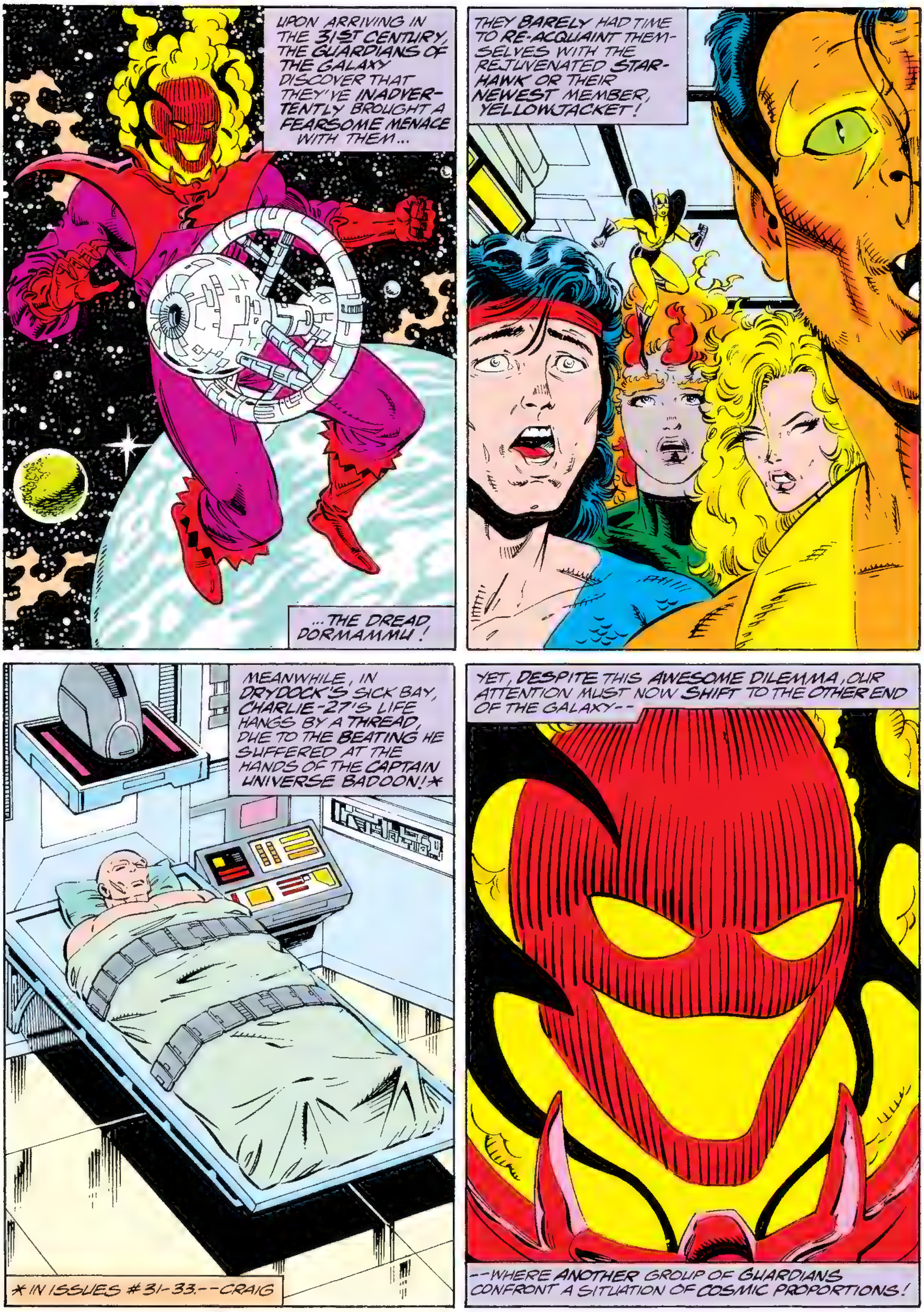
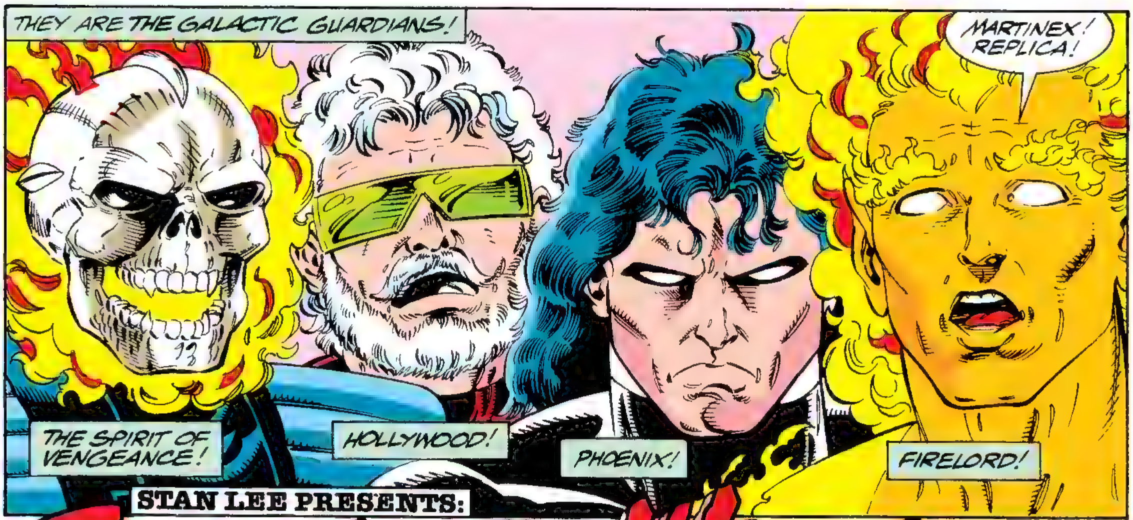
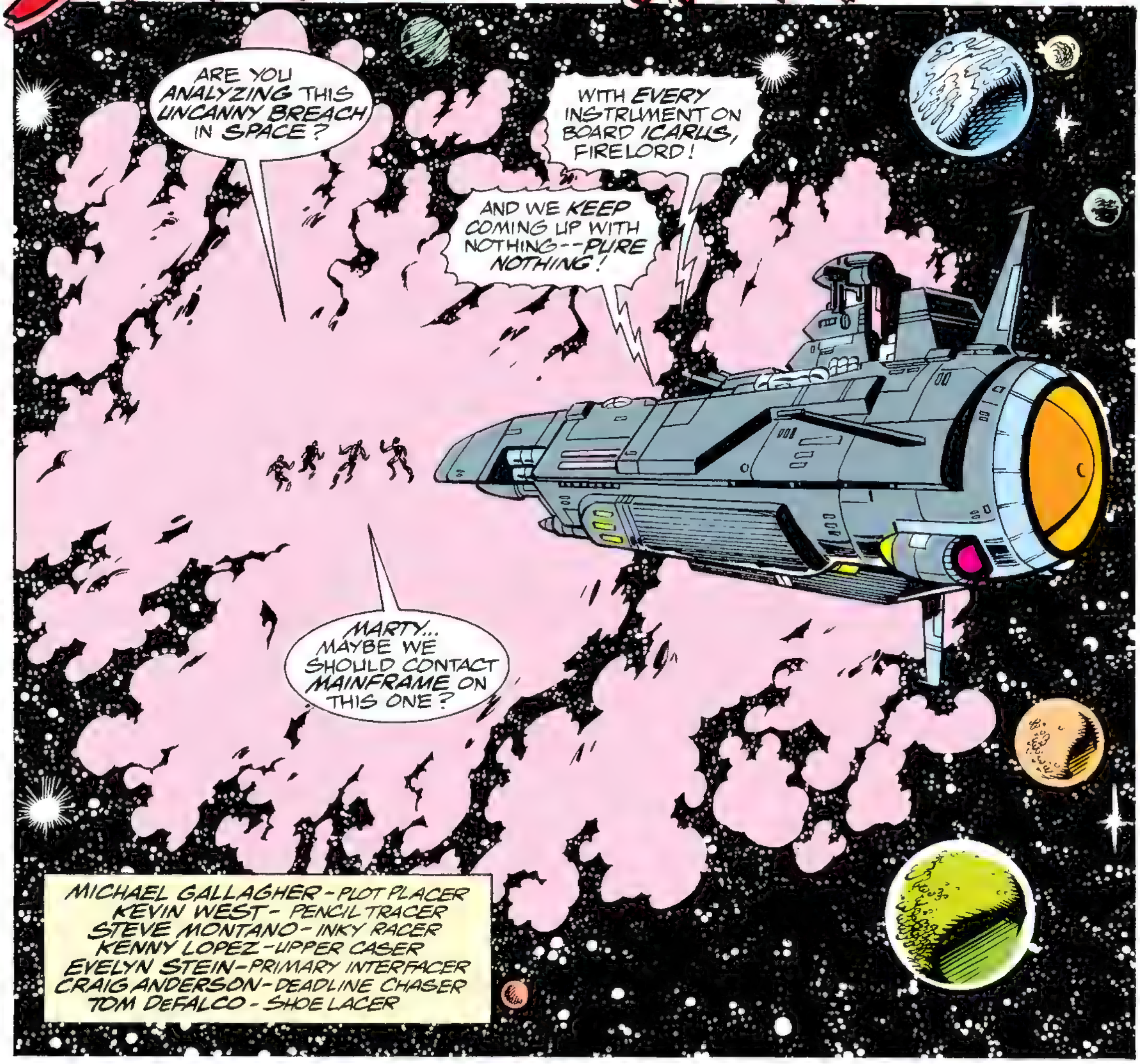

UPON ARRIVING IN THE 31ST CENTURY, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY DISCOVER THAT THEY'VE INADVERTENTLY BROUGHT A FEARSOME MENACE WITH THEM...
...THE DREAD DORMAMMU!
THEY BARELY HAD TIME TO RE-ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE REJUVENATED STARHAWK OR THEIR NEWEST MEMBER, YELLOWJACKET!
MEANWHILE, IN DRYDOCK'S SICK BAY, CHARLIE-27'S LIFE HANGS BY A THREAD, DUE TO THE BEATING HE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE CAPTAIN UNIVERSE BADOON!*
*IN ISSUES #31-33.--CRAIG
YET, DESPITE THIS AWESOME DILEMMA, OUR ATTENTION MUST NOW SHIFT TO THE OTHER END OF THE GALAXY--
--WHERE ANOTHER GROUP OF GUARDIANS CONFRONT A SITUATION OF COSMIC PROPORTIONS!


THEY ARE THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS!
MARTINEX! REPLICA!
THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!
HOLLYWOOD!
PHOENIX!
FIRELORD!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

BIOLOGICAL WARFARE


ARE YOU *ANALYZING* THIS *UNCANNY BREACH* IN *SPACE*?
WITH *EVERY* INSTRUMENT ON BOARD *ICARUS*, FIRELORD!
AND WE *KEEP* COMING UP WITH NOTHING--*PURE NOTHING*!
MARTY... MAYBE WE SHOULD CONTACT *MAINFRAME* ON THIS ONE?
MICHAEL GALLAGHER - PLOT PLACER
KEVIN WEST - PENCIL TRACER
STEVE MONTANO - INKY RACER
KENNY LOPEZ - UPPER CASER
EVELYN STEIN - PRIMARY INTERFACER
CRAIG ANDERSON - DEADLINE CHASER
TOM DEFALCO - SHOE LACER

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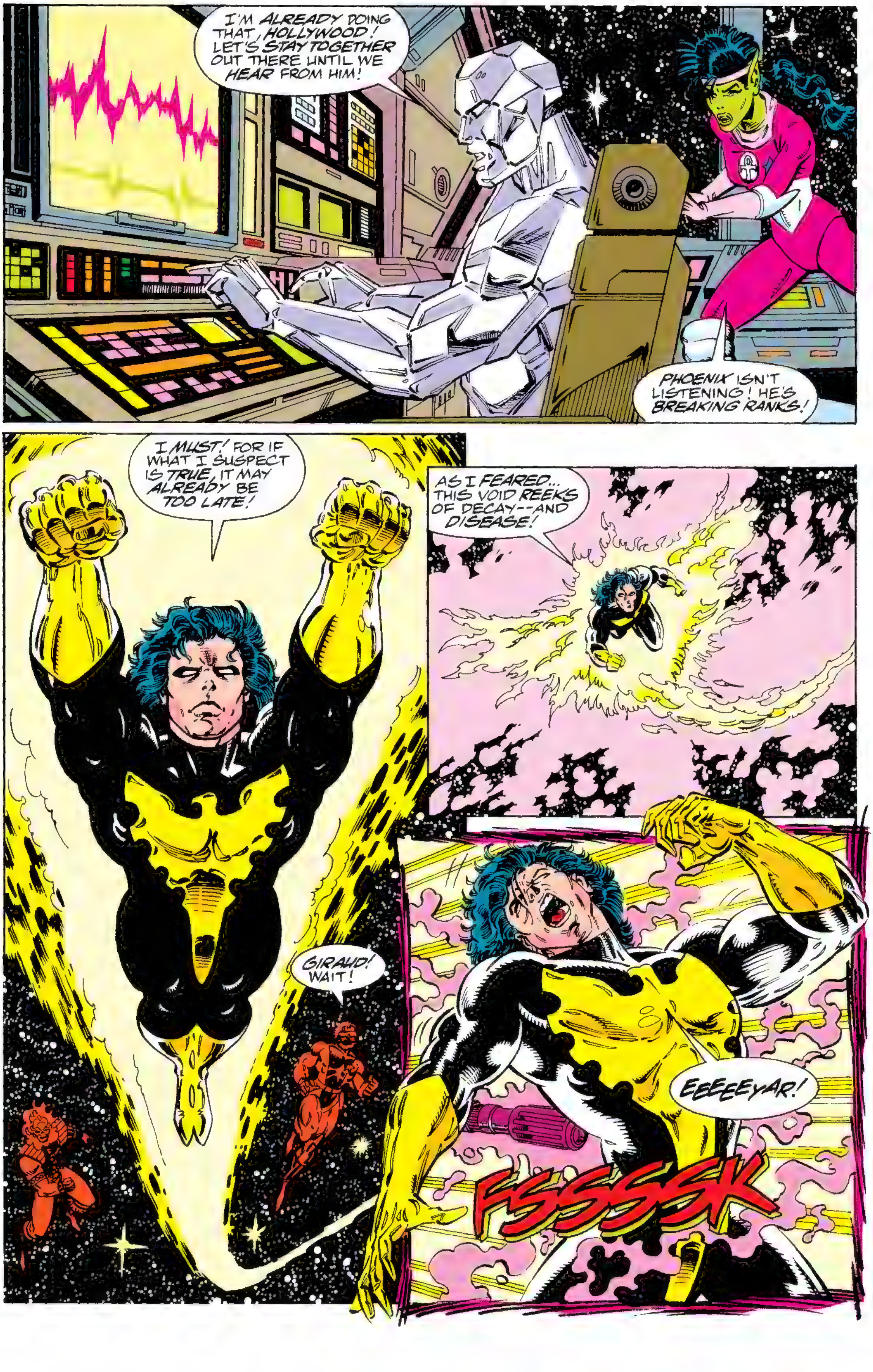
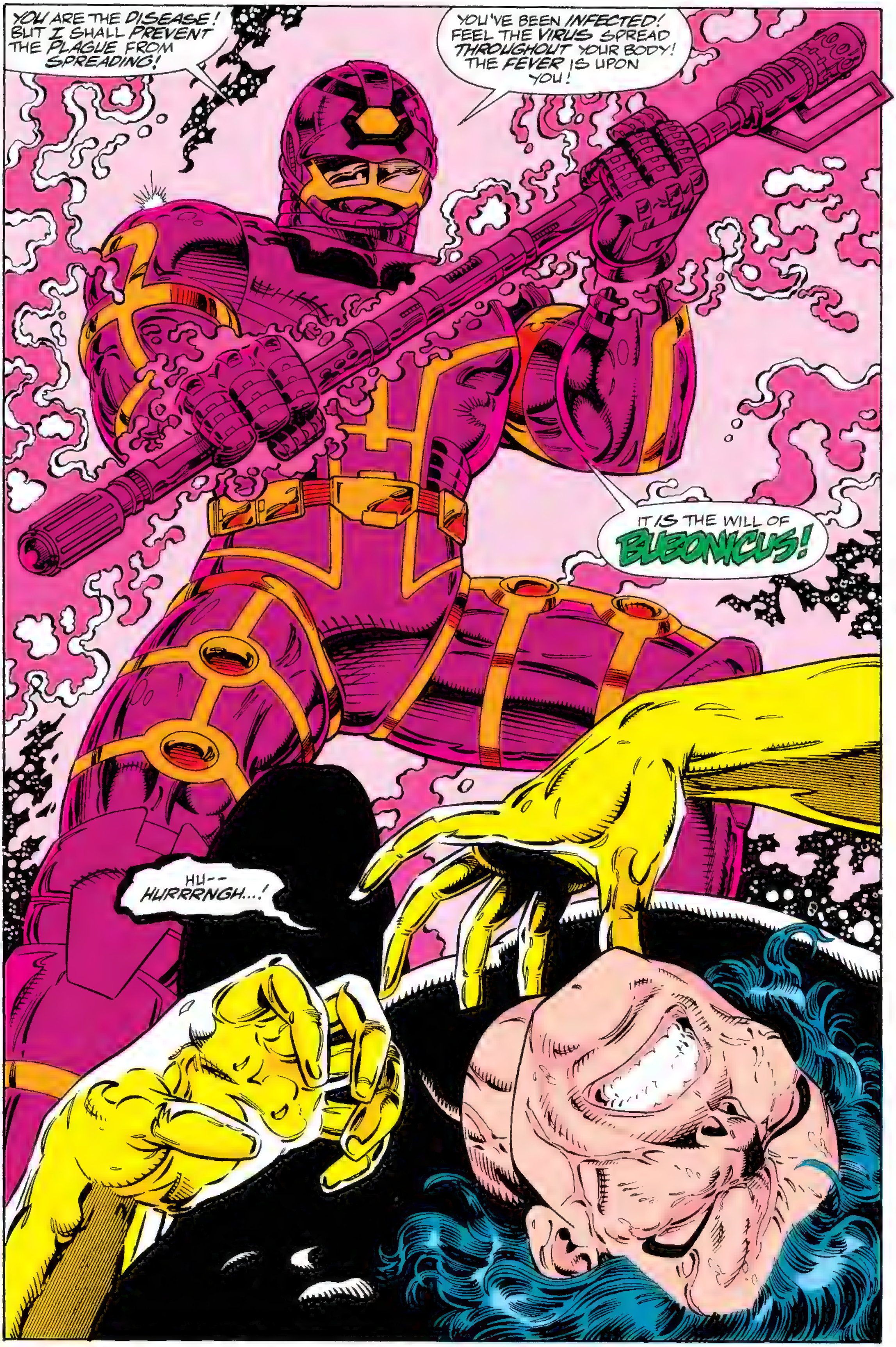
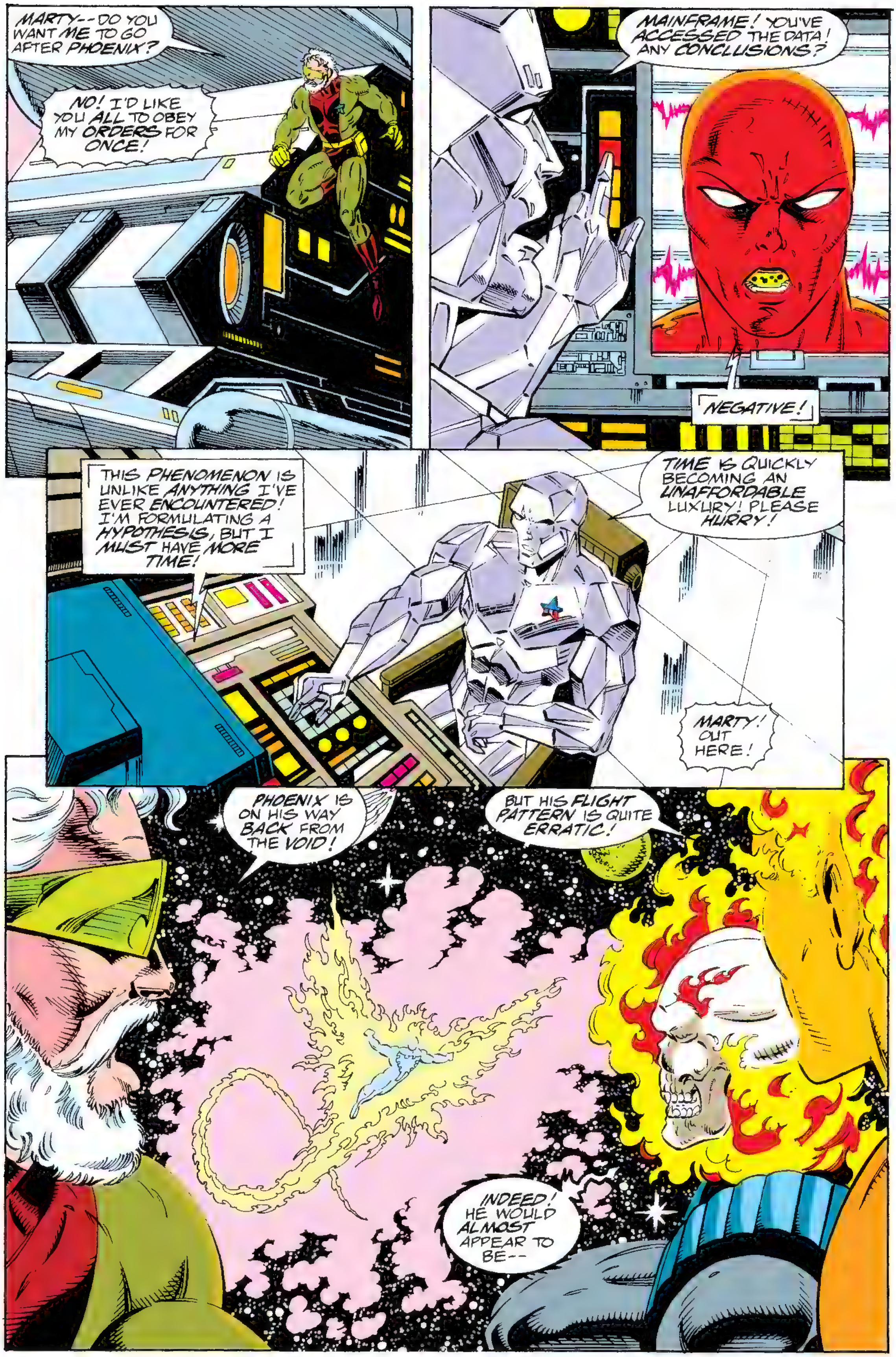
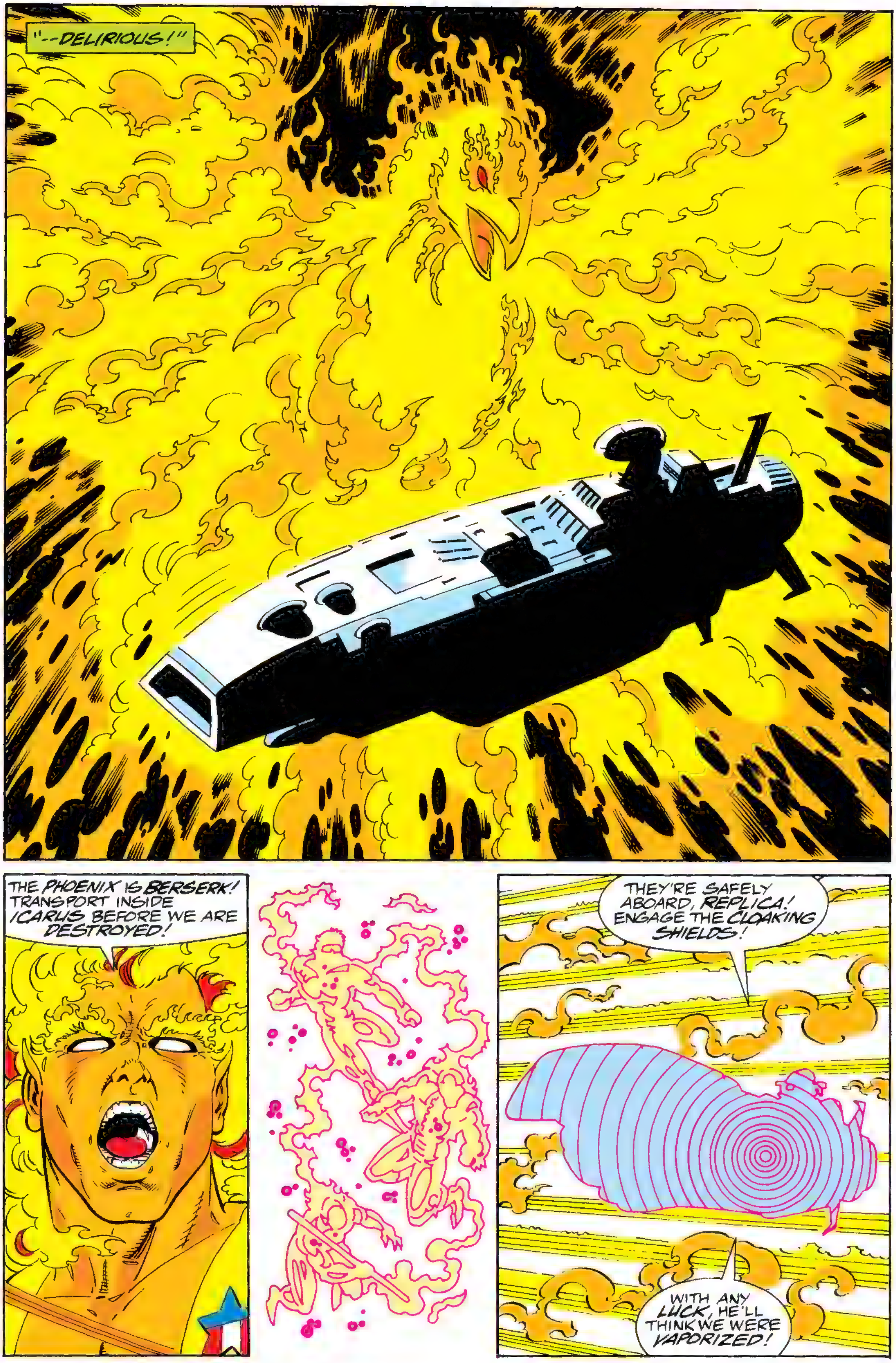
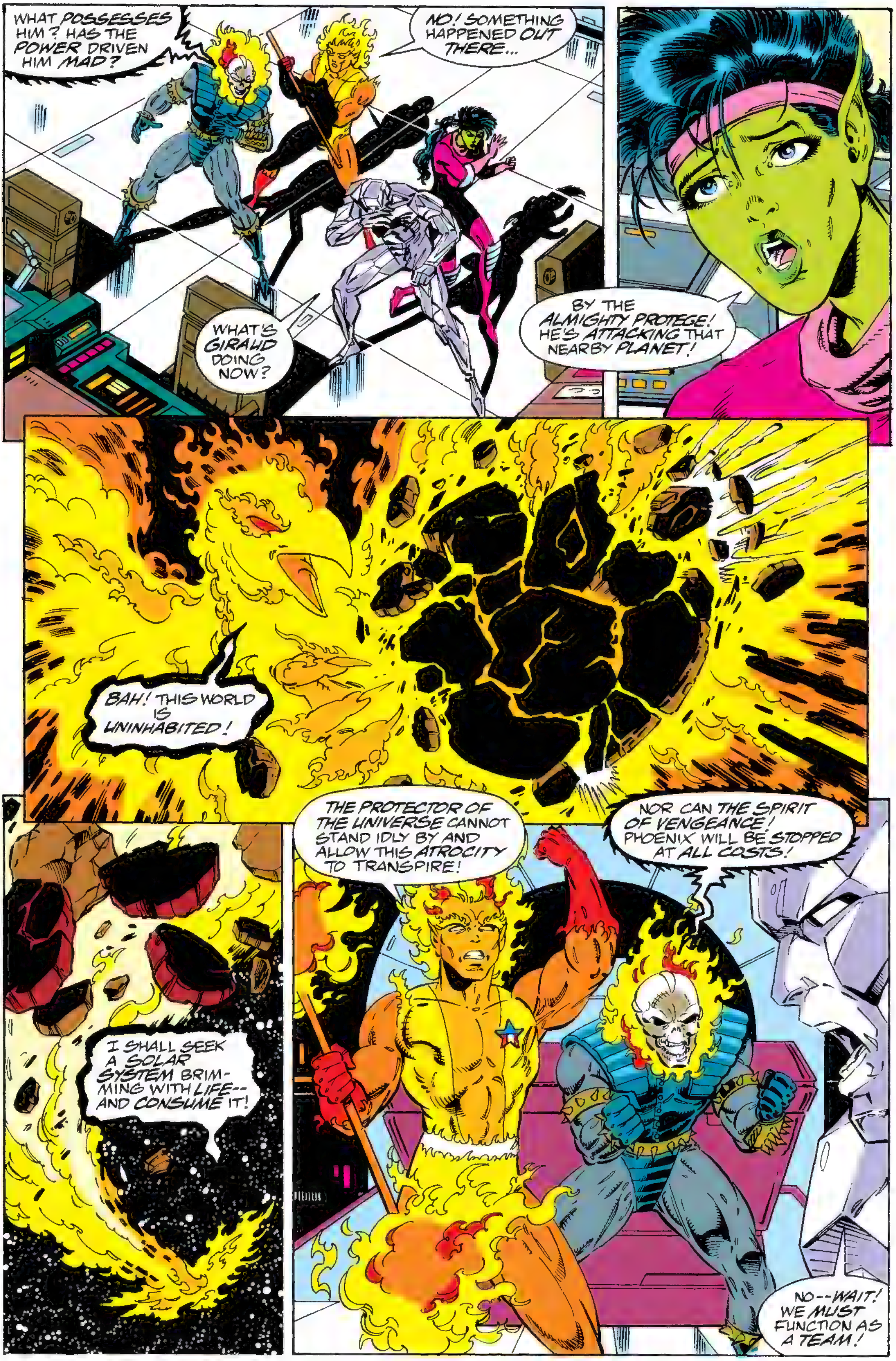
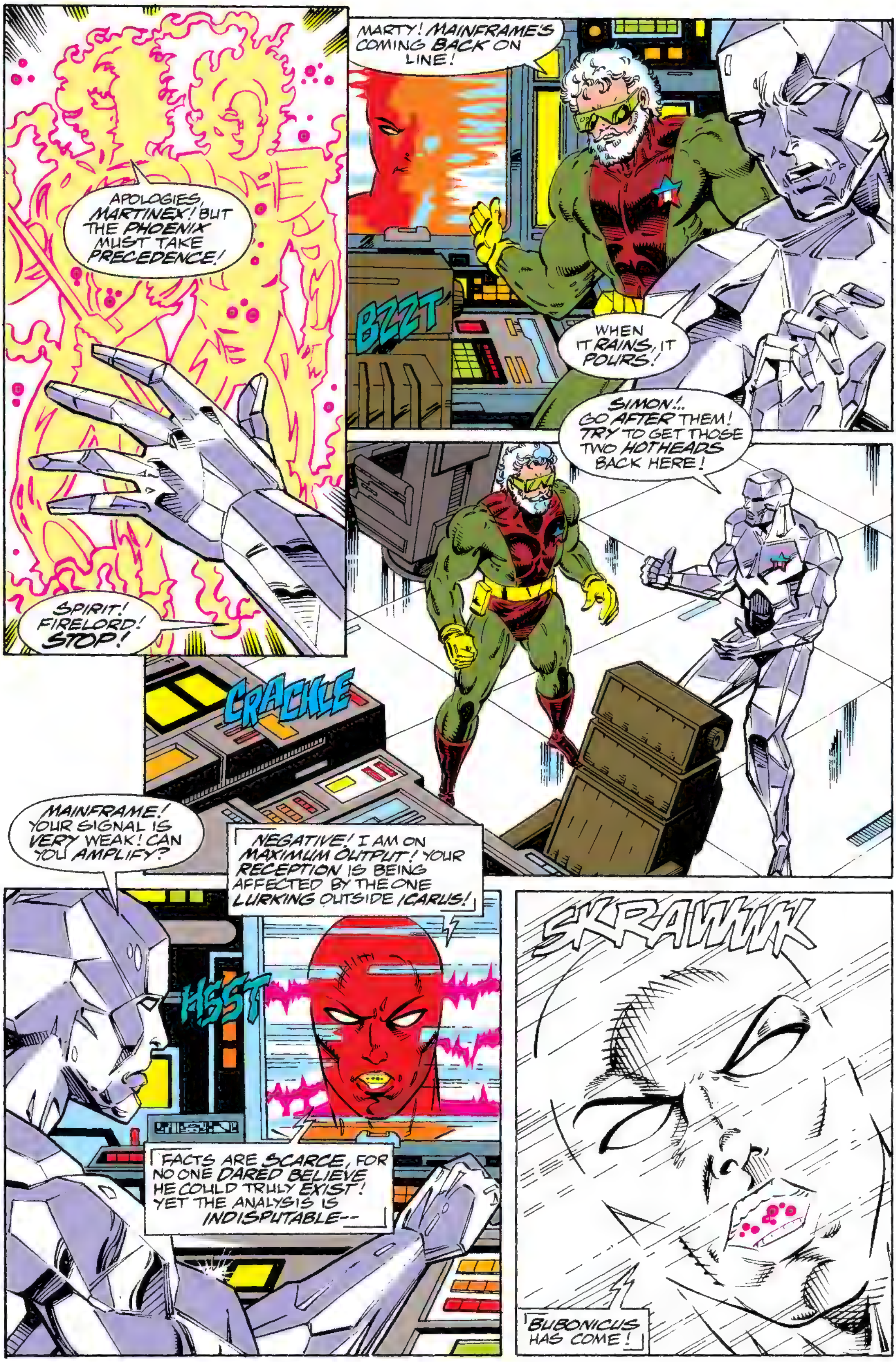

I'M ALREADY DOING THAT, HOLLYWOOD! LET'S STAY TOGETHER OUT THERE UNTIL WE HEAR FROM HIM!
PHOENIX ISN'T LISTENING! HE'S BREAKING RANKS!
I MUST! FOR IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE, IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
GIRAUD! WAIT!
AS I FEARED... THIS VOID REEKS OF DECAY--AND DISEASE!
EEEEEYAR!
FSSSSK

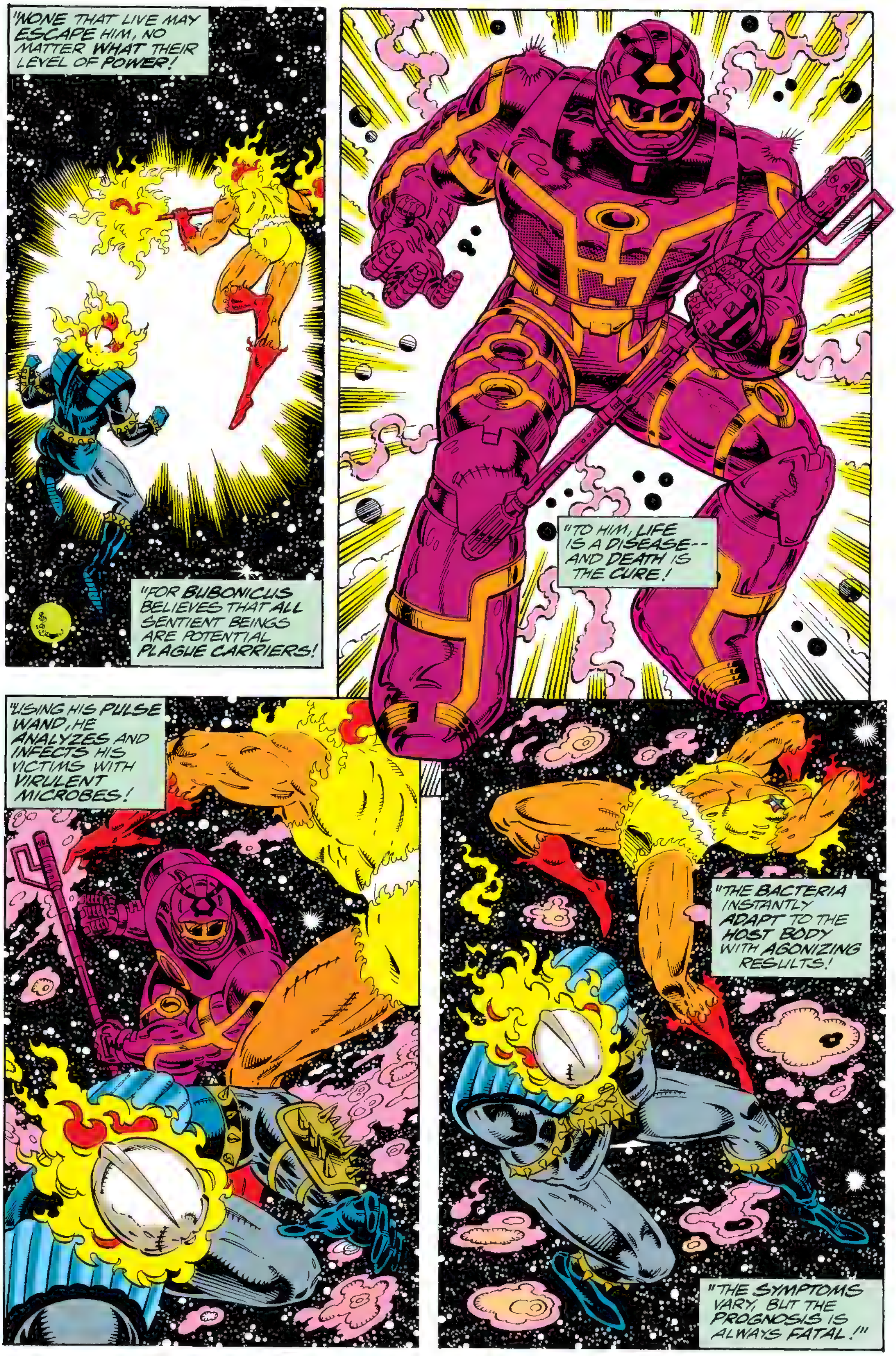

YOU ARE THE DISEASE! BUT I SHALL PREVENT THE PLAGUE FROM SPREADING!
YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED! FEEL THE VIRUS SPREAD THROUGHOUT YOUR BODY! THE FEVER IS UPON YOU!
IT IS THE WILL OF BUBONICUS!
HU-- HURRRNGH...!

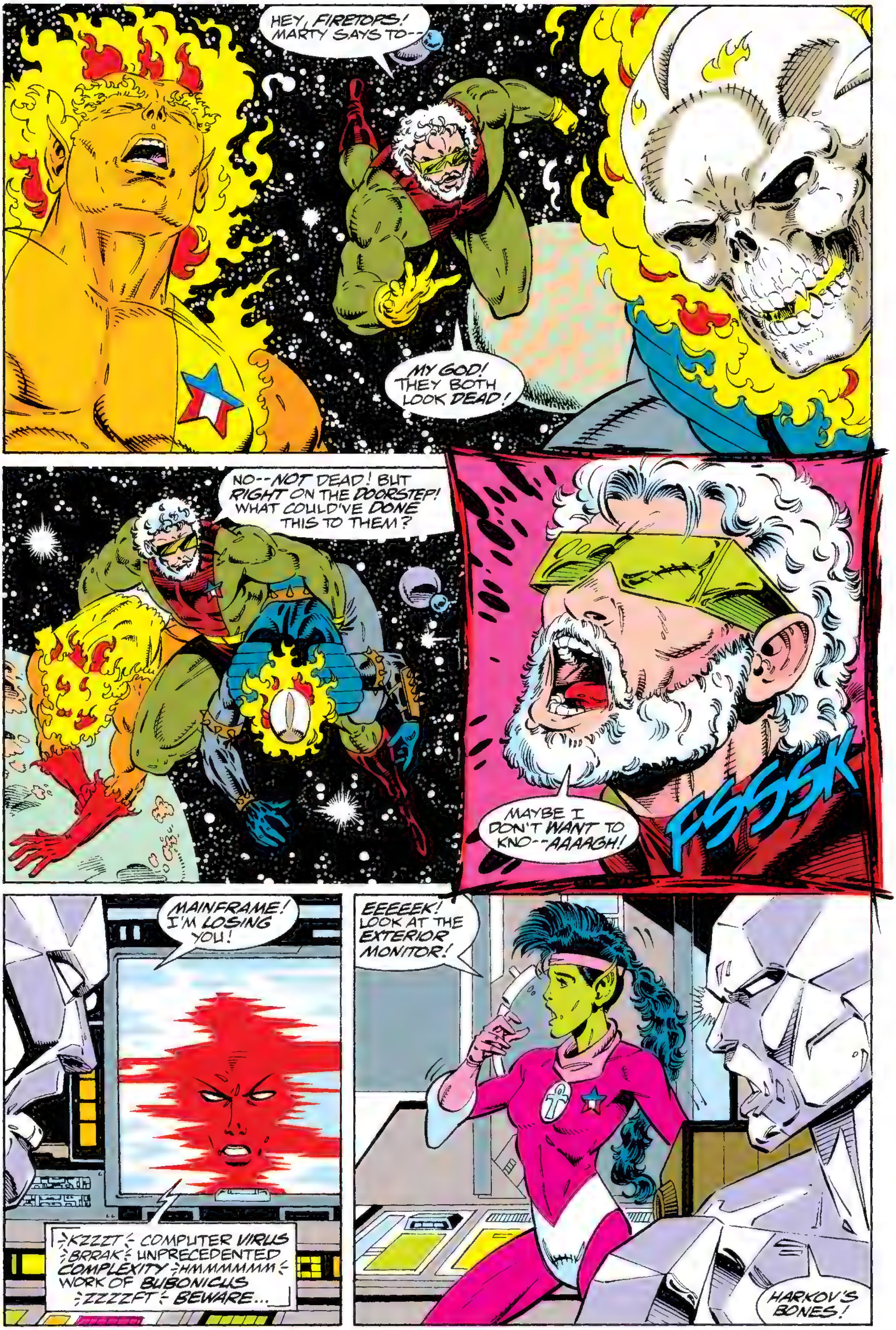

MARTY-- DO YOU WANT ME TO GO AFTER PHOENIX?
NO! I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO OBEY MY ORDERS FOR ONCE!
MAINFRAME! YOU'VE ACCESSED THE DATA! ANY CONCLUSIONS?
NEGATIVE!
THIS PHENOMENON IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED! I'M FORMULATING A HYPOTHESIS, BUT I MUST HAVE MORE TIME!
TIME IS QUICKLY BECOMING AN UNAFFORDABLE LUXURY! PLEASE HURRY!
MARTY! OUT HERE!
PHOENIX IS ON HIS WAY BACK FROM THE VOID!
BUT HIS FLIGHT PATTERN IS QUITE ERRATIC!
INDEED! HE WOULD ALMOST APPEAR TO BE--

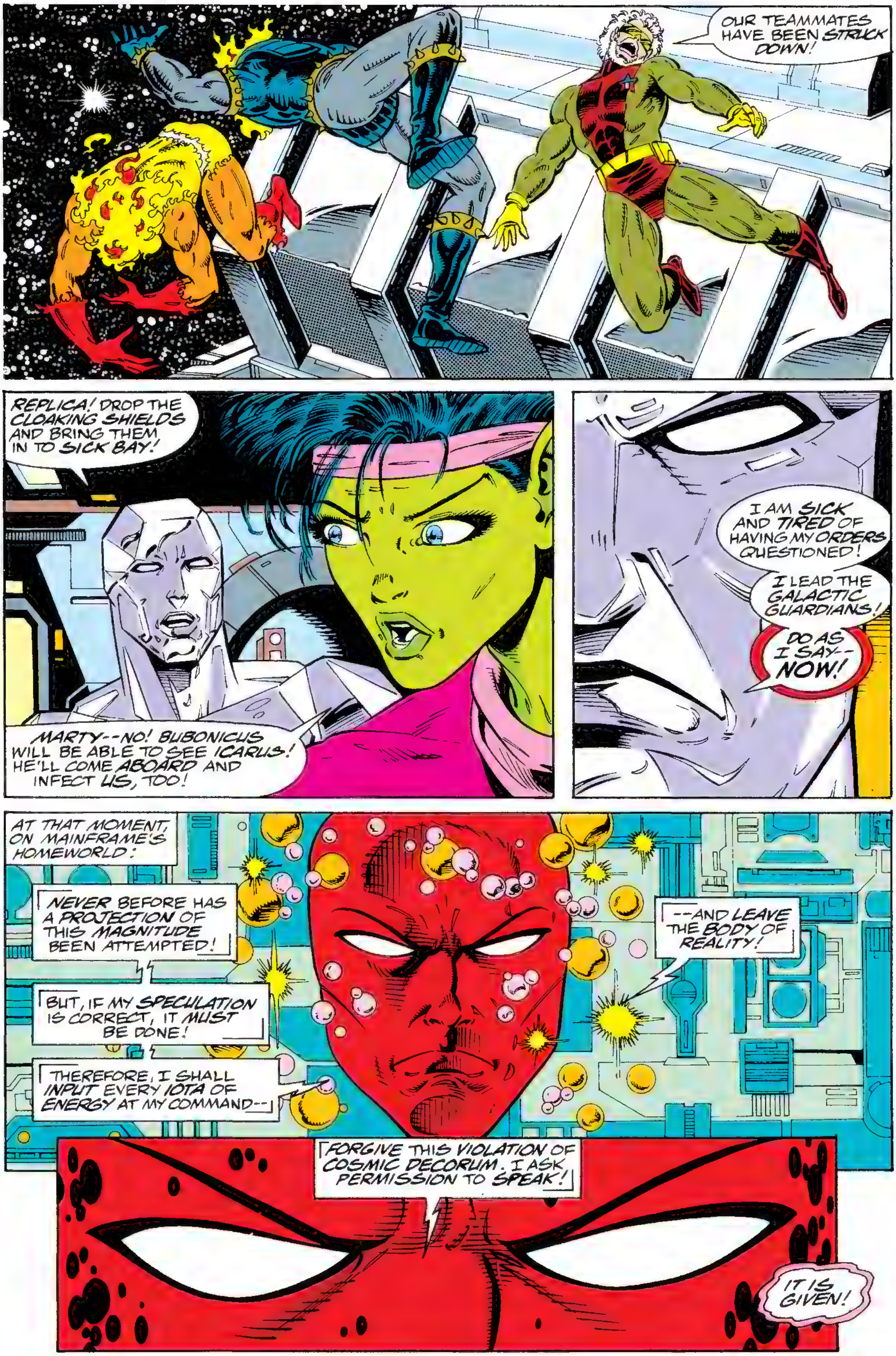

"--DELIRIOUS!"
THE PHOENIX IS BERSERK! TRANSPORT INSIDE ICARUS BEFORE WE ARE DESTROYED!
THEY'RE SAFELY ABOARD, REPLICA! ENGAGE THE CLOAKING SHIELDS!
WITH ANY LUCK, HE'LL THINK WE WERE VAPORIZED!

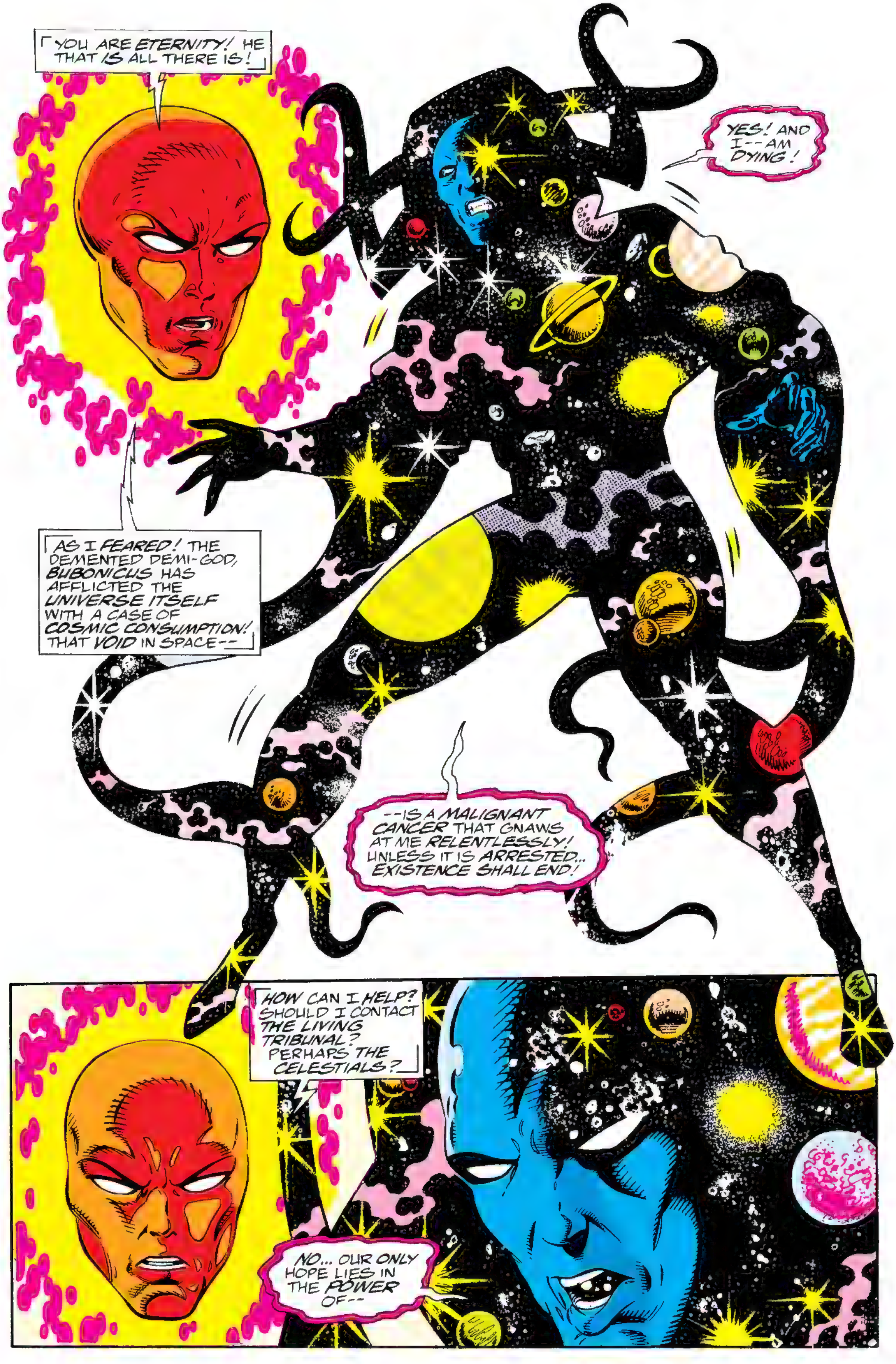

WHAT POSSESSES HIM? HAS THE POWER DRIVEN HIM MAD?
NO! SOMETHING HAPPENED OUT THERE...
WHAT'S GIRAUD DOING NOW?
BY THE ALMIGHTY PROTEGE! HE'S ATTACKING THAT NEARBY PLANET!
BAH! THIS WORLD IS UNINHABITED!
I SHALL SEEK A SOLAR SYSTEM BRIMMING WITH LIFE--AND CONSUME IT!
THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY AND ALLOW THIS ATROCITY TO TRANSPIRE!
NOR CAN THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE! PHOENIX WILL BE STOPPED AT ALL COSTS!
NO--WAIT! WE MUST FUNCTION AS A TEAM!

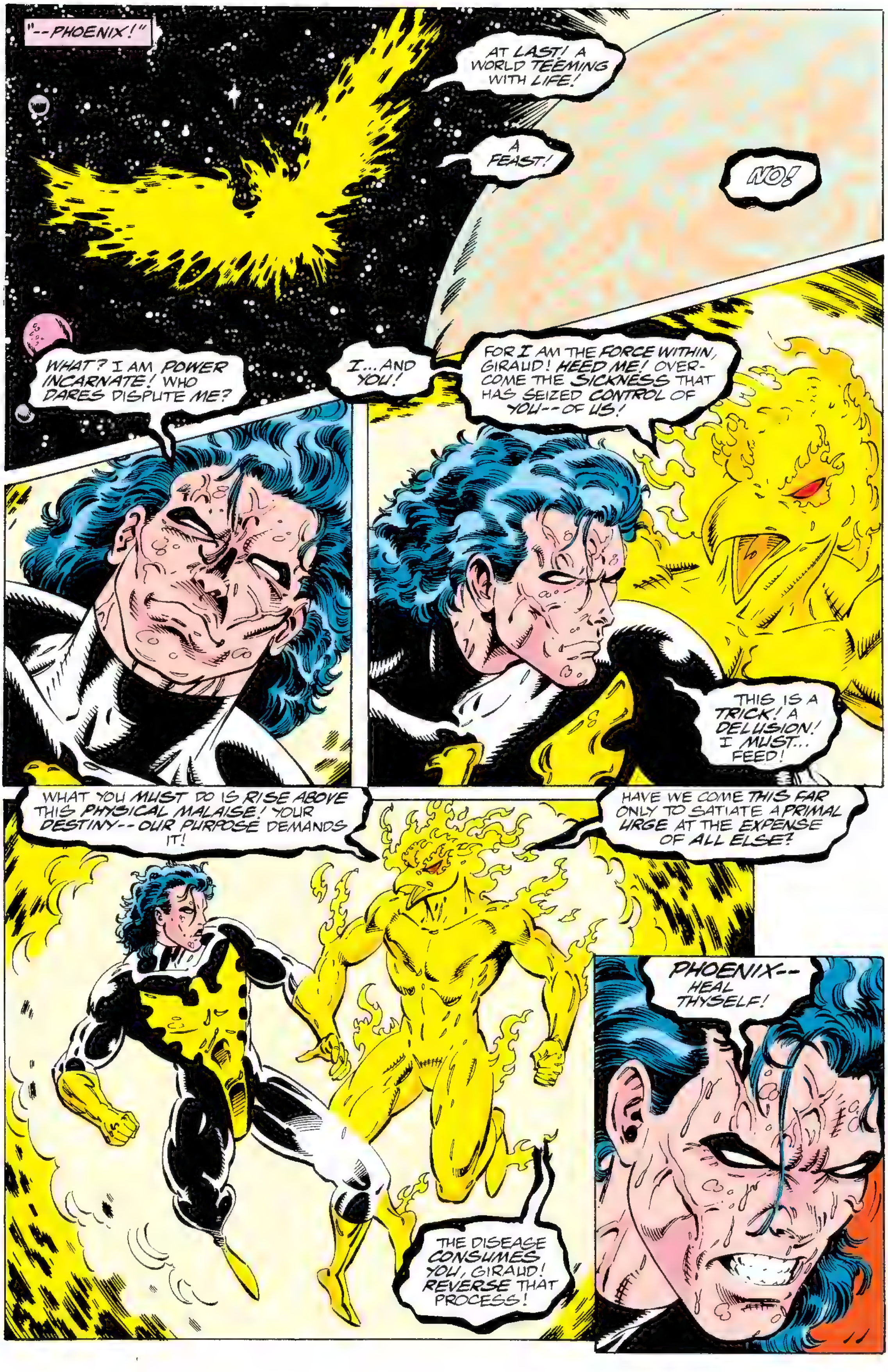

APOLOGIES, MARTINEX! BUT THE PHOENIX MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE!
SPIRIT! FIRELORD! STOP!
MARTY! MAINFRAME'S COMING BACK ON LINE!
BZZT
WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!
SIMON!.. GO AFTER THEM! TRY TO GET THOSE TWO HOTHEADS BACK HERE!
CRACKLE
MAINFRAME! YOUR SIGNAL IS VERY WEAK! CAN YOU AMPLIFY?
NEGATIVE! I AM ON MAXIMUM OUTPUT! YOUR RECEPTION IS BEING AFFECTED BY THE ONE LURKING OUTSIDE ICARUS!
HSST
FACTS ARE SCARCE, FOR NO ONE DARED BELIEVE HE COULD TRULY EXIST! YET THE ANALYSIS IS INDISPUTABLE--
SKRAWWK
BUBONICUS HAS COME!

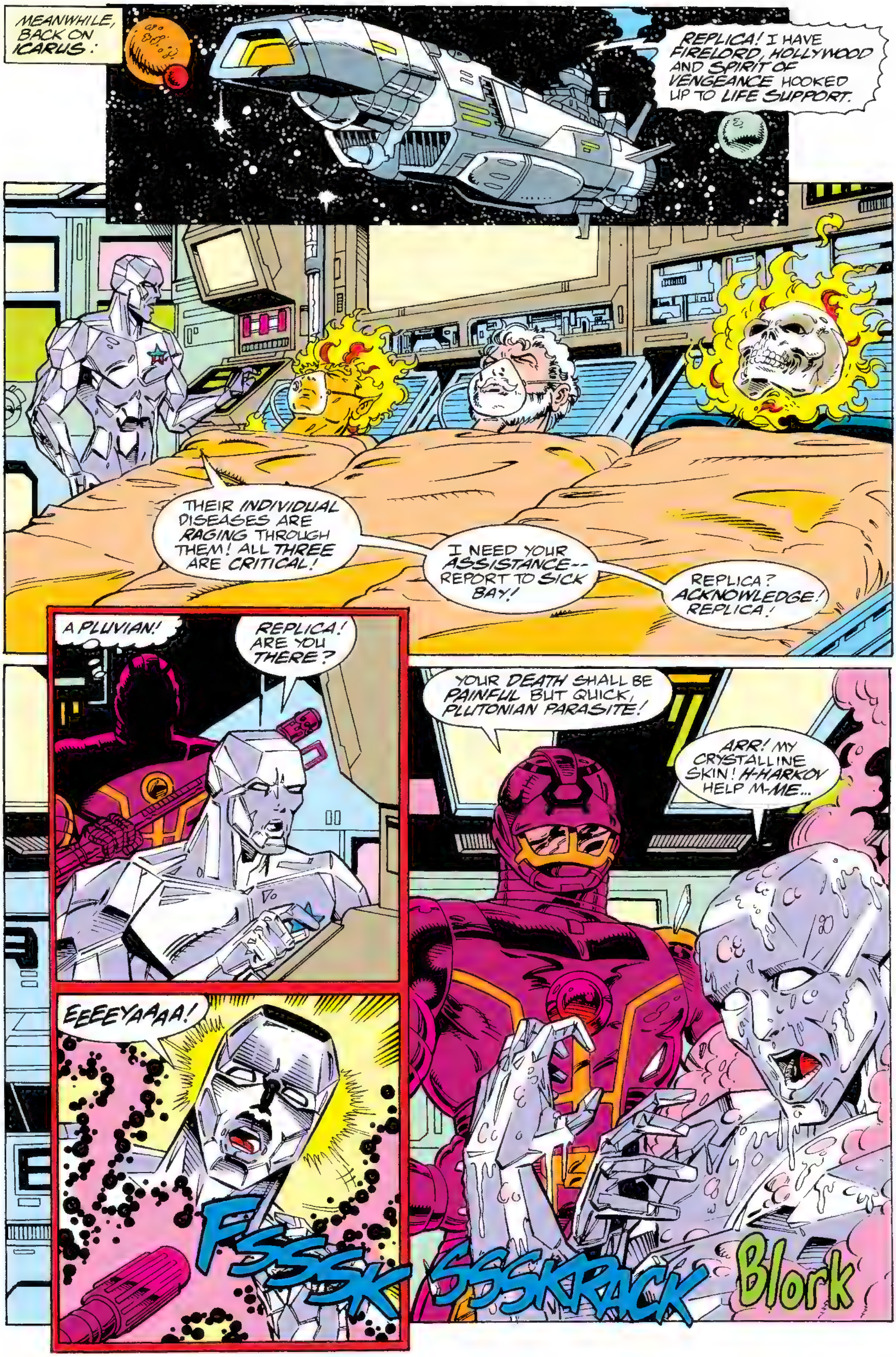

"NONE THAT LIVE MAY ESCAPE HIM, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR LEVEL OF POWER!
"FOR BUBONICUS BELIEVES THAT ALL SENTIENT BEINGS ARE POTENTIAL PLAGUE CARRIERS!
"TO HIM, LIFE IS A DISEASE-- AND DEATH IS THE CURE!
"USING HIS PULSE WAND, HE ANALYZES AND INFECTS HIS VICTIMS WITH VIRULENT MICROBES!
"THE BACTERIA INSTANTLY ADAPT TO THE HOST BODY WITH AGONIZING RESULTS!
"THE SYMPTOMS VARY, BUT THE PROGNOSIS IS ALWAYS FATAL!"

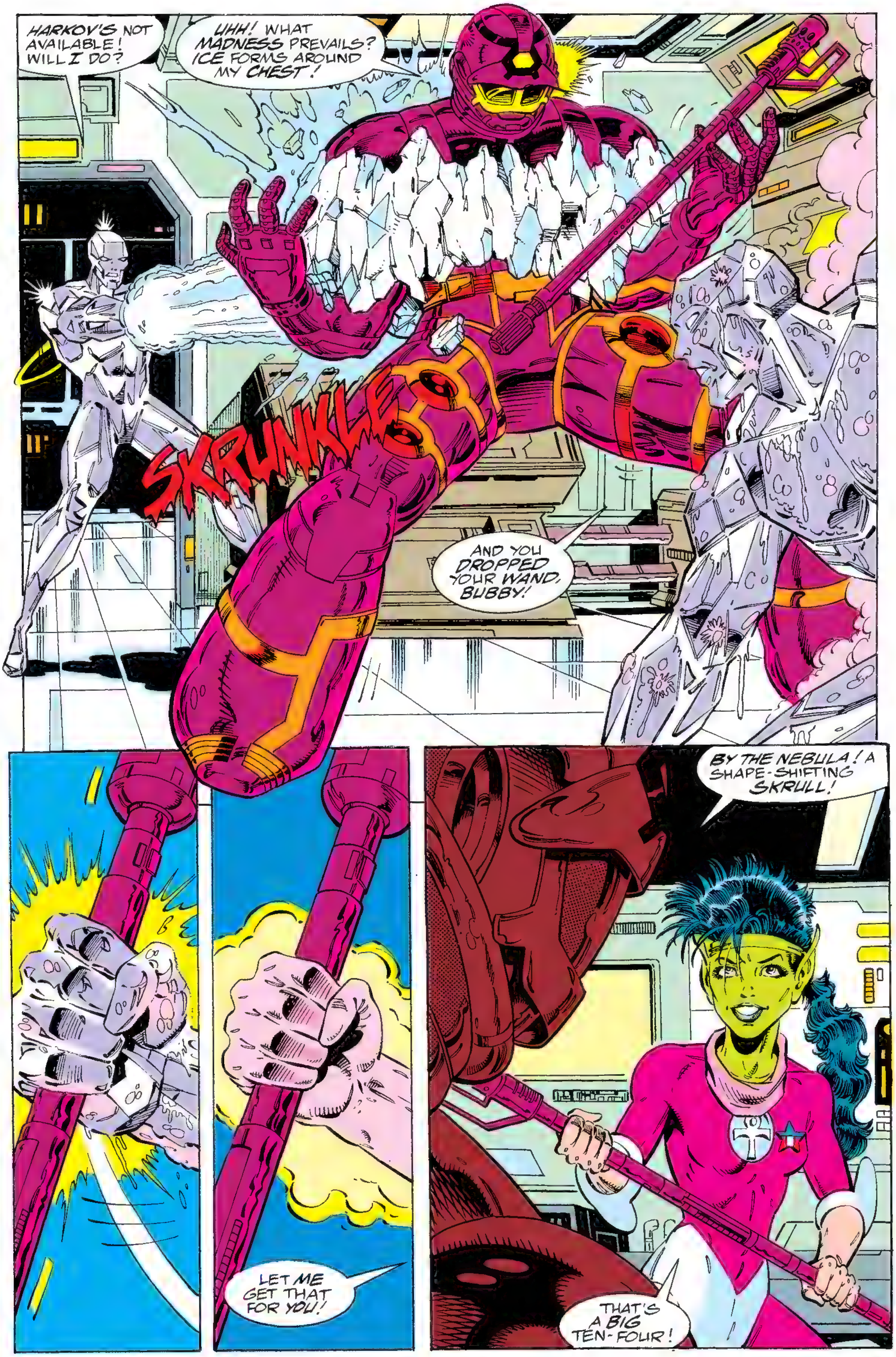

HEY, FIRETOPS! MARTY SAYS TO--
MY GOD! THEY BOTH LOOK DEAD!
NO--NOT DEAD! BUT RIGHT ON THE DOORSTEP! WHAT COULD'VE DONE THIS TO THEM?
MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO KNO--AAAAGH!
FSSSK
MAINFRAME! I'M LOSING YOU!
-KZZZT- COMPUTER VIRUS -BRRAK- UNPRECEDENTED COMPLEXITY -HMMMMMM- WORK OF BUBONICUS -ZZZZFT- BEWARE...
EEEEEK! LOOK AT THE EXTERIOR MONITOR!
HARKOV'S BONES!

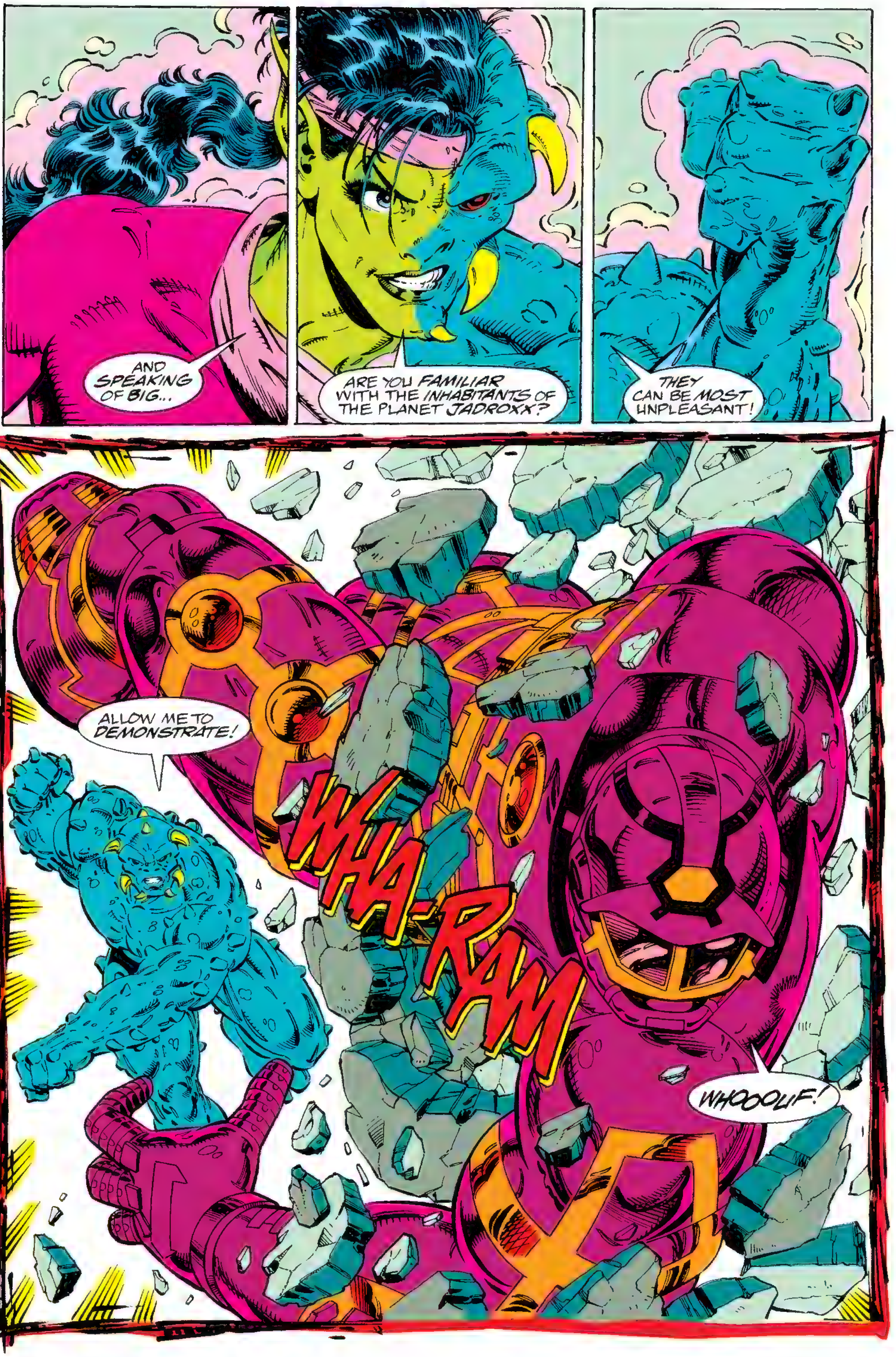

OUR TEAMMATES HAVE BEEN STRUCK DOWN!
REPLICA! DROP THE CLOAKING SHIELDS AND BRING THEM IN TO SICK BAY!
MARTY--NO! BUBONICUS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE ICARUS! HE'LL COME ABOARD AND INFECT US, TOO!
I AM SICK AND TIRED OF HAVING MY ORDERS QUESTIONED!
I LEAD THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS!
DO AS I SAY--NOW!
AT THAT MOMENT, ON MAINFRAME'S HOMEWORLD:
NEVER BEFORE HAS A PROJECTION OF THIS MAGNITUDE BEEN ATTEMPTED!
BUT, IF MY SPECULATION IS CORRECT, IT MUST BE DONE!
THEREFORE, I SHALL INPUT EVERY IOTA OF ENERGY AT MY COMMAND--
--AND LEAVE THE BODY OF REALITY!
FORGIVE THIS VIOLATION OF COSMIC DECORUM. I ASK PERMISSION TO SPEAK!
IT IS GIVEN!

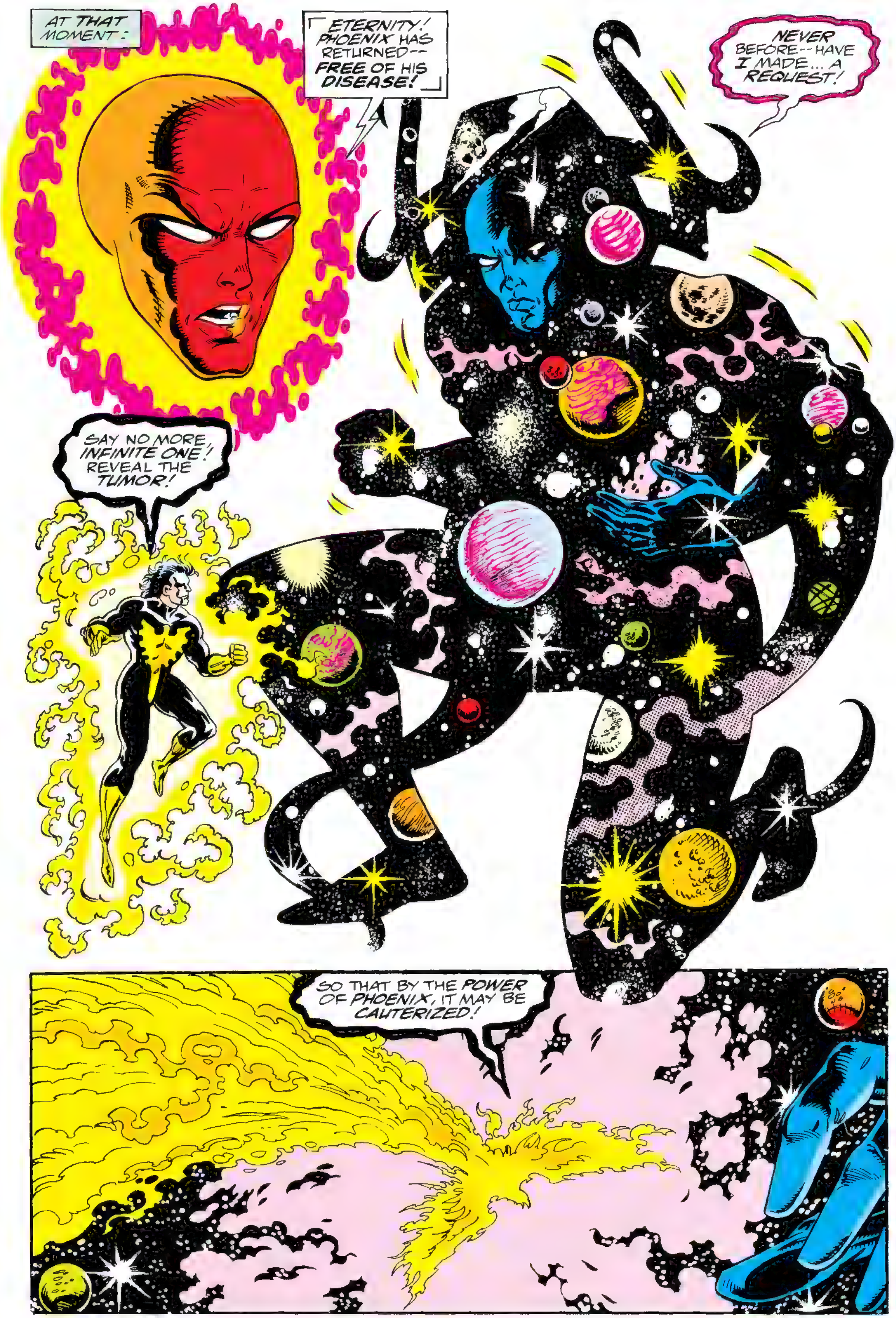

YOU ARE ETERNITY! HE THAT IS ALL THERE IS!
YES! AND I--AM DYING!
AS I FEARED! THE DEMENTED DEMI-GOD, BUBONICUS HAS AFFLICTED THE UNIVERSE ITSELF WITH A CASE OF COSMIC CONSUMPTION! THAT VOID IN SPACE--
--IS A MALIGNANT CANCER THAT GNAWS AT ME RELENTLESSLY! UNLESS IT IS ARRESTED... EXISTENCE SHALL END!
HOW CAN I HELP? SHOULD I CONTACT THE LIVING TRIBUNAL? PERHAPS THE CELESTIALS?
NO... OUR ONLY HOPE LIES IN THE POWER OF--

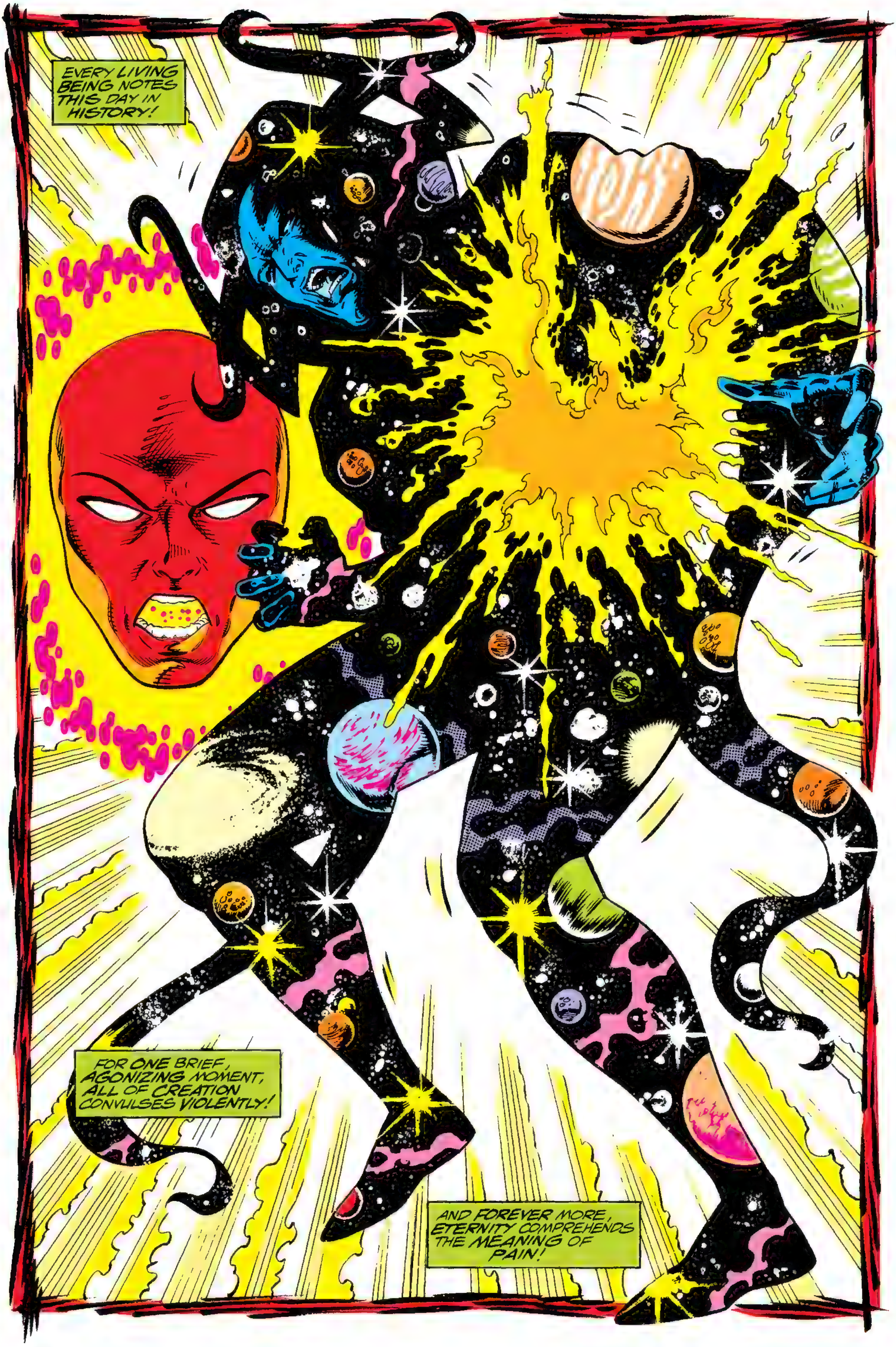

"--PHOENIX!"
AT LAST! A WORLD TEEMING WITH LIFE!
A FEAST!
NO!
WHAT? I AM POWER INCARNATE! WHO DARES DISPUTE ME?
I... AND YOU!
FOR I AM THE FORCE WITHIN, GIRAUD! HEED ME! OVERCOME THE SICKNESS THAT HAS SEIZED CONTROL OF YOU--OF US!
THIS IS A TRICK! A DELUSION! I MUST... FEED!
WHAT YOU MUST DO IS RISE ABOVE THIS PHYSICAL MALAISE! YOUR DESTINY--OUR PURPOSE DEMANDS IT!
HAVE WE COME THIS FAR ONLY TO SATIATE A PRIMAL URGE AT THE EXPENSE OF ALL ELSE?
THE DISEASE CONSUMES YOU, GIRAUD! REVERSE THAT PROCESS!
PHOENIX-- HEAL THYSELF!

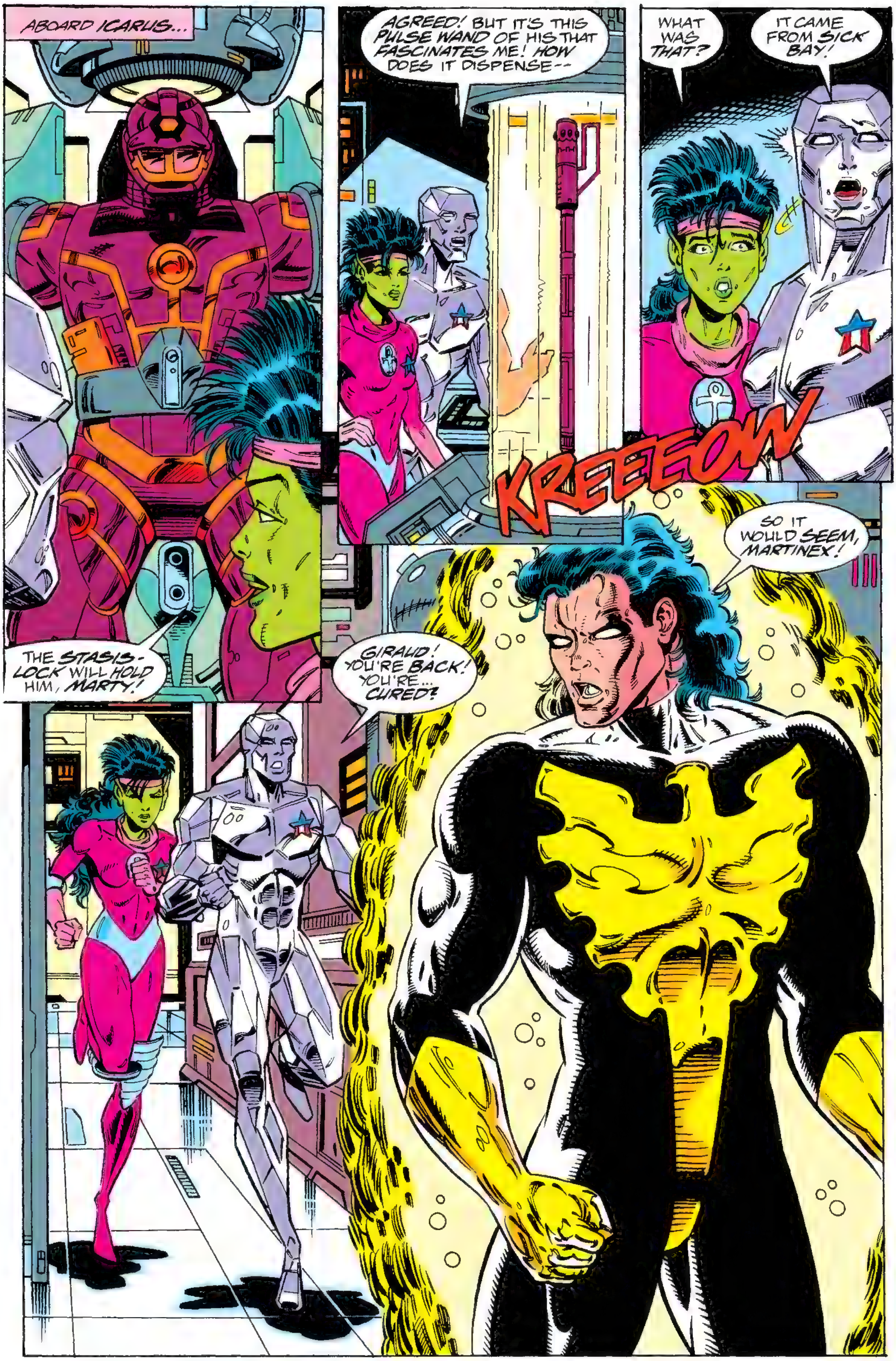

MEANWHILE, BACK ON ICARUS:
REPLICA! I HAVE FIRELORD, HOLLYWOOD AND SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE HOOKED UP TO LIFE SUPPORT.
THEIR INDIVIDUAL DISEASES ARE RAGING THROUGH THEM! ALL THREE ARE CRITICAL!
I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE-- REPORT TO SICK BAY!
REPLICA? ACKNOWLEDGE! REPLICA!
A PLUVIAN!
REPLICA! ARE YOU THERE?
EEEEYAAAA!
FSSSK
YOUR DEATH SHALL BE PAINFUL BUT QUICK, PLUTONIAN PARASITE!
ARR! MY CRYSTALLINE SKIN! H-HARKOV HELP M-ME...
SSSKRACK
Blork

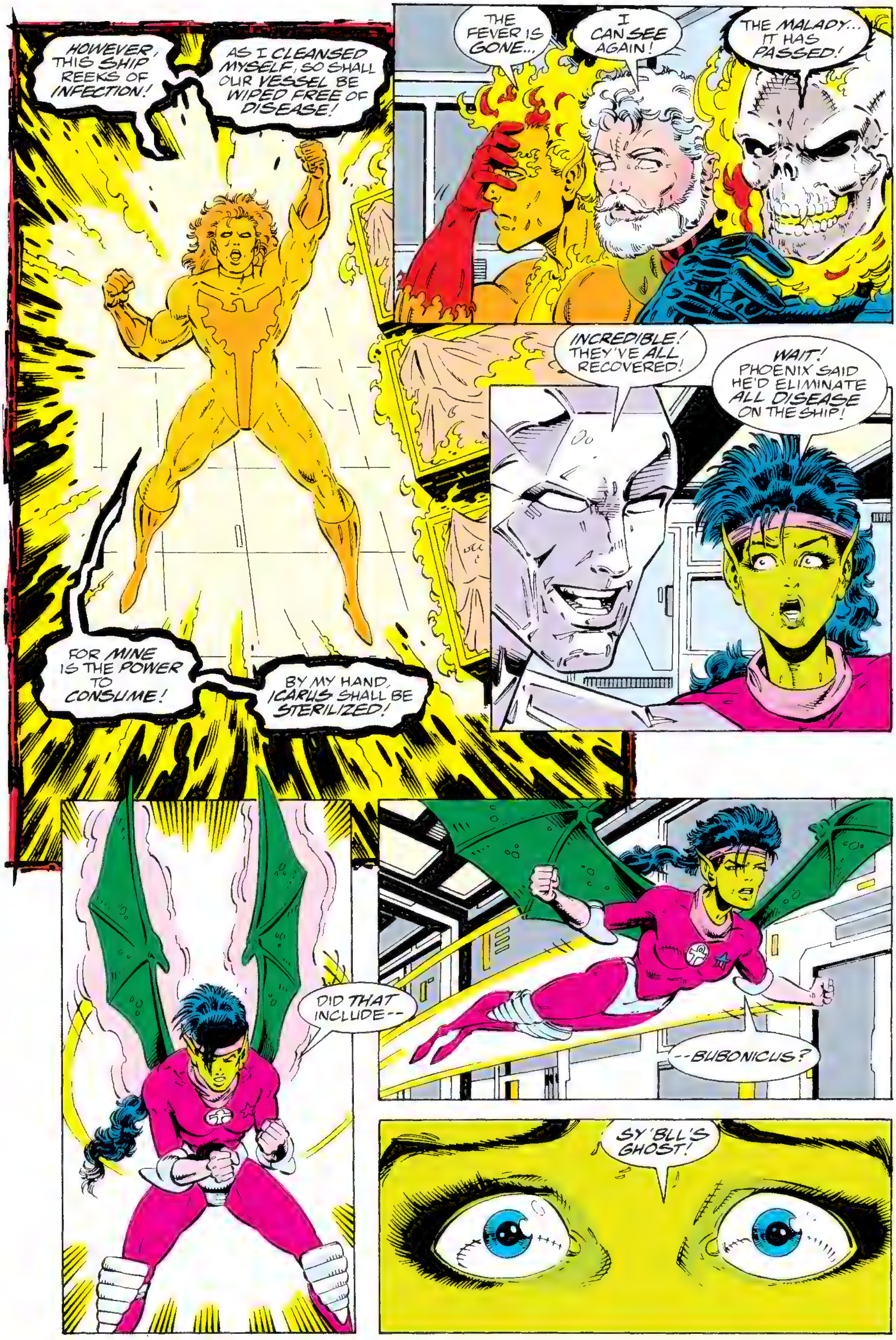

HARKOV'S NOT AVAILABLE! WILL I DO?
UHH! WHAT MADNESS PREVAILS? ICE FORMS AROUND MY CHEST!
SKRUNKLE
AND YOU DROPPED YOUR WAND, BUBBY!
LET ME GET THAT FOR YOU!
BY THE NEBULA! A SHAPE-SHIFTING SKRULL!
THAT'S A BIG TEN-FOUR!

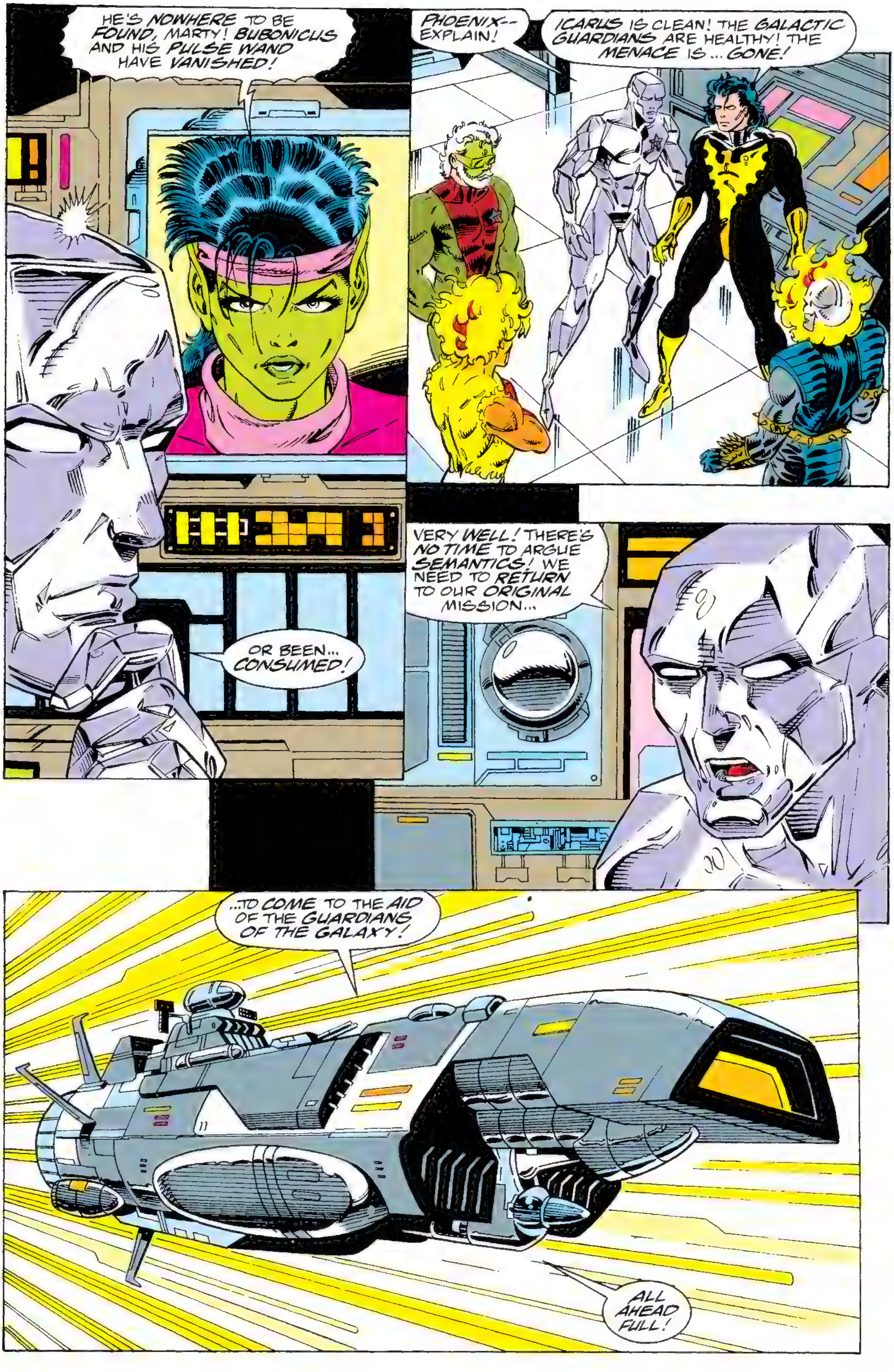

AND SPEAKING OF BIG...
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLANET JADROXX?
THEY CAN BE MOST UNPLEASANT!
ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE!
WHA-RAM
WHOOOUF!

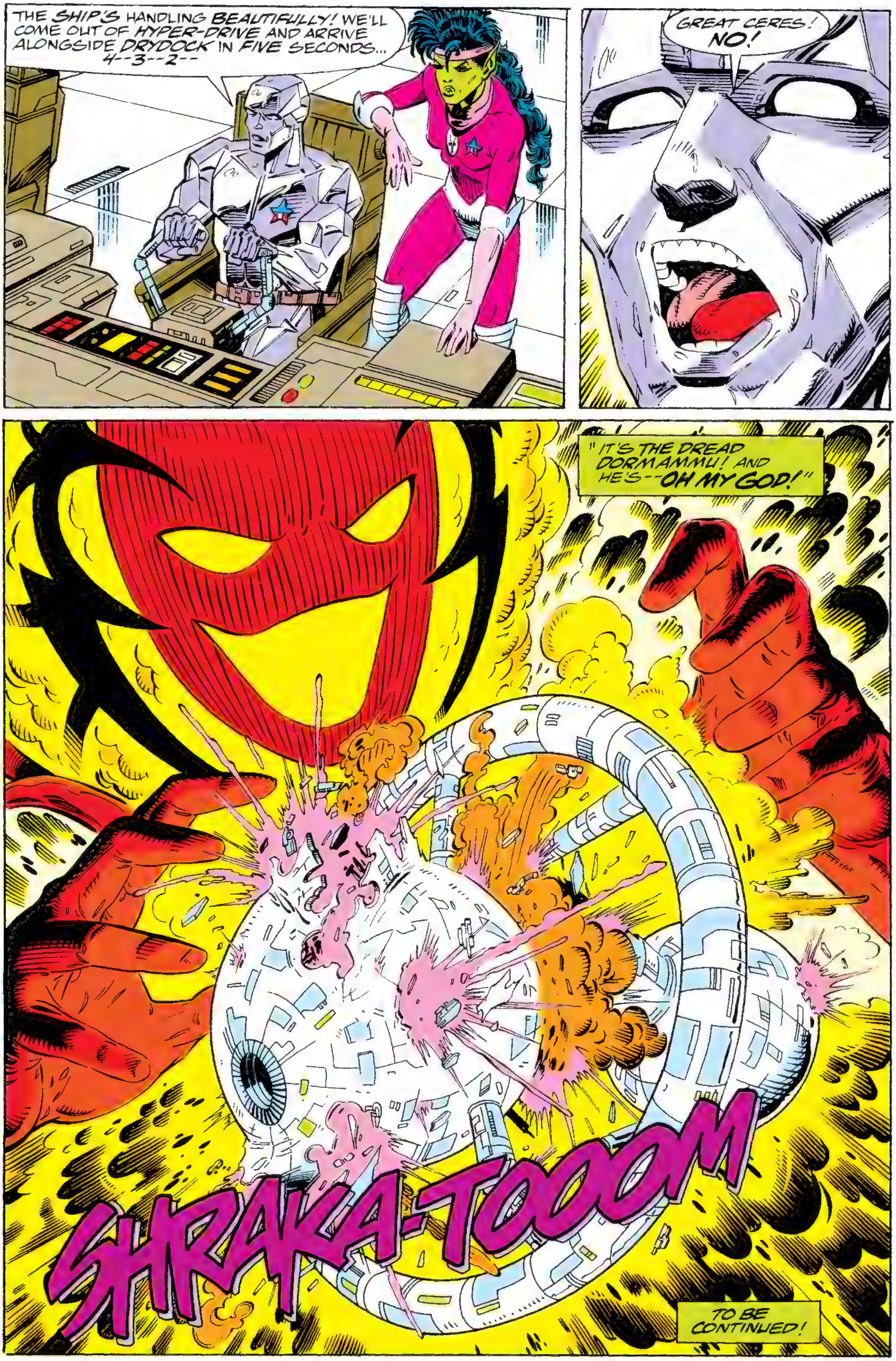

AT THAT MOMENT:
ETERNITY! PHOENIX HAS RETURNED-- FREE OF HIS DISEASE!
NEVER BEFORE--HAVE I MADE... A REQUEST!
SAY NO MORE, INFINITE ONE! REVEAL THE TUMOR!
SO THAT BY THE POWER OF PHOENIX, IT MAY BE CAUTERIZED!

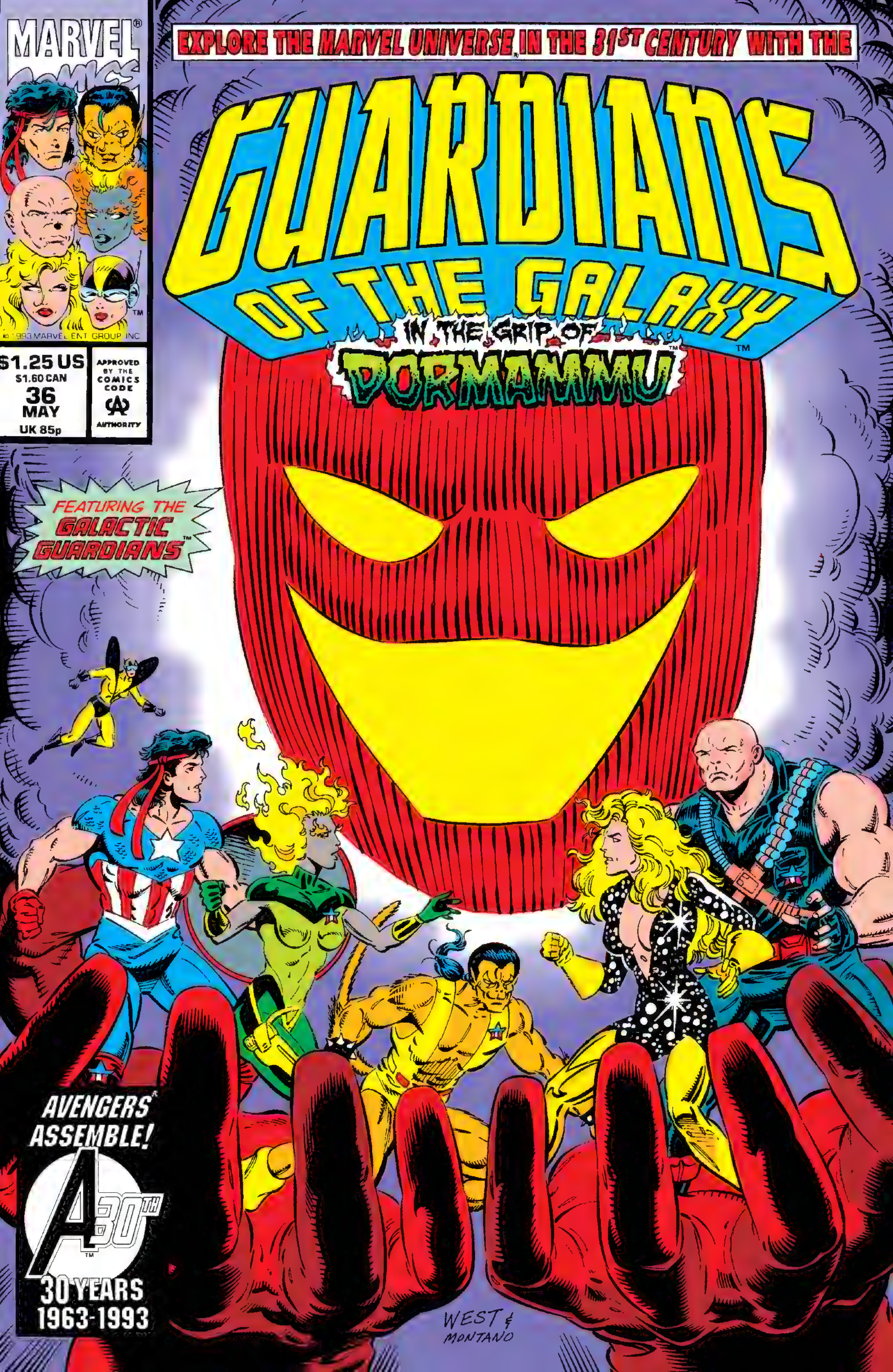

EVERY LIVING BEING NOTES THIS DAY IN HISTORY!
FOR ONE BRIEF, AGONIZING MOMENT, ALL OF CREATION CONVULSES VIOLENTLY!
AND FOREVER MORE, ETERNITY COMPREHENDS THE MEANING OF PAIN!


ABOARD ICARUS...
THE STASIS-LOCK WILL HOLD HIM, MARTY!
AGREED! BUT IT'S THIS PULSE WAND OF HIS THAT FASCINATES ME! HOW DOES IT DISPENSE--
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT CAME FROM SICK BAY!
KREEEOW
GIRAUD! YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE... CURED?
SO IT WOULD SEEM, MARTINEX!


HOWEVER, THIS SHIP REEKS OF INFECTION!
AS I CLEANSED MYSELF, SO SHALL OUR VESSEL BE WIPED FREE OF DISEASE!
THE FEVER IS GONE...
I CAN SEE AGAIN!
THE MALADY... IT HAS PASSED!
FOR MINE IS THE POWER TO CONSUME!
BY MY HAND, ICARUS SHALL BE STERILIZED!
INCREDIBLE! THEY'VE ALL RECOVERED!
WAIT! PHOENIX SAID HE'D ELIMINATE ALL DISEASE ON THE SHIP!
DID THAT INCLUDE--
--BUBONICUS?
SY'BLL'S GHOST!


HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, MARTY! BUBONICUS AND HIS PULSE WAND HAVE VANISHED!
OR BEEN... CONSUMED!
PHOENIX-- EXPLAIN!
ICARUS IS CLEAN! THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS ARE HEALTHY! THE MENACE IS... GONE!
VERY WELL! THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE SEMANTICS! WE NEED TO RETURN TO OUR ORIGINAL MISSION...
...TO COME TO THE AID OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!
ALL AHEAD FULL!


THE SHIP'S HANDLING BEAUTIFULLY! WE'LL COME OUT OF HYPER-DRIVE AND ARRIVE ALONGSIDE DRYDOCK IN FIVE SECONDS... 4--3--2--
GREAT CERES! NO!
"IT'S THE DREAD DORMAMMU! AND HE'S--OH MY GOD!"
SHRAKA-TOOOM
TO BE CONTINUED!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IN THE GRIP OF DORMAMMU™
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FEATURING THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS™
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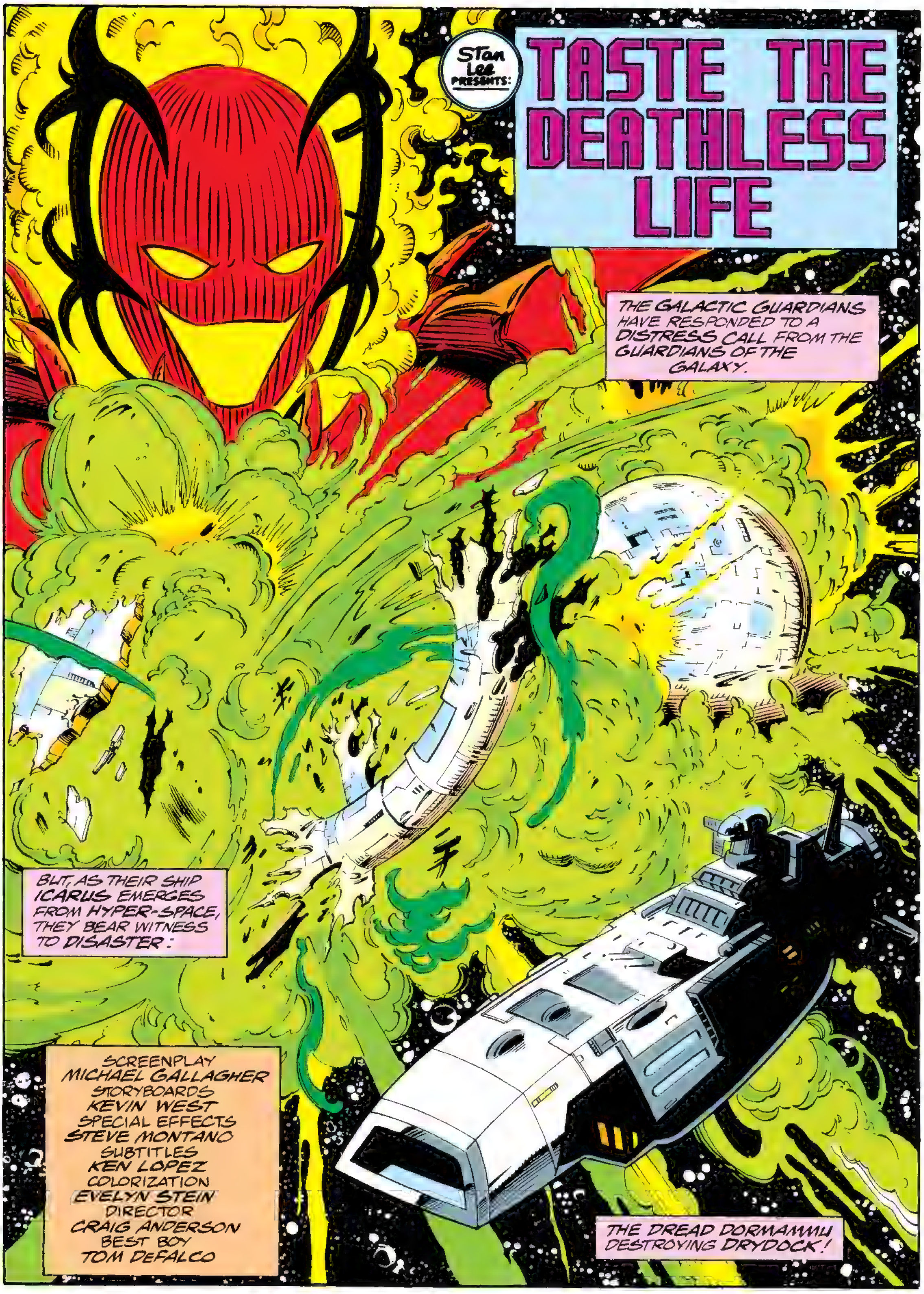
30TH
30 YEARS
1963-1993
WEST & MONTANO


STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TASTE THE DEATHLESS LIFE
THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS HAVE RESPONDED TO A DISTRESS CALL FROM THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY.
BUT, AS THEIR SHIP ICARUS EMERGES FROM HYPER-SPACE, THEY BEAR WITNESS TO DISASTER:
THE DREAD DORMAMMU DESTROYING DRYDOCK!
SCREENPLAY MICHAEL GALLAGHER
STORYBOARDS KEVIN WEST
SPECIAL EFFECTS STEVE MONTANO
SUBTITLES KEN LOPEZ
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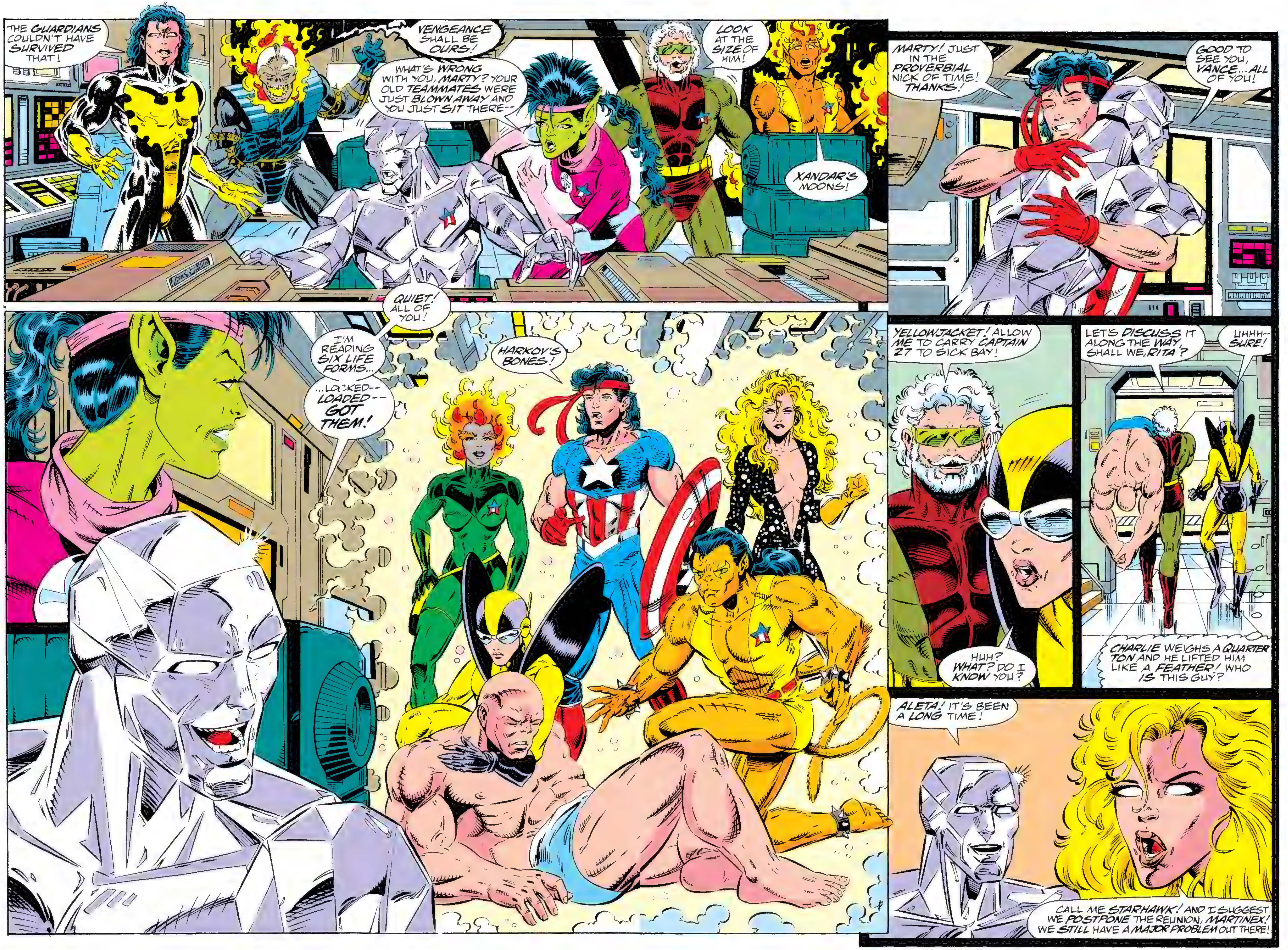
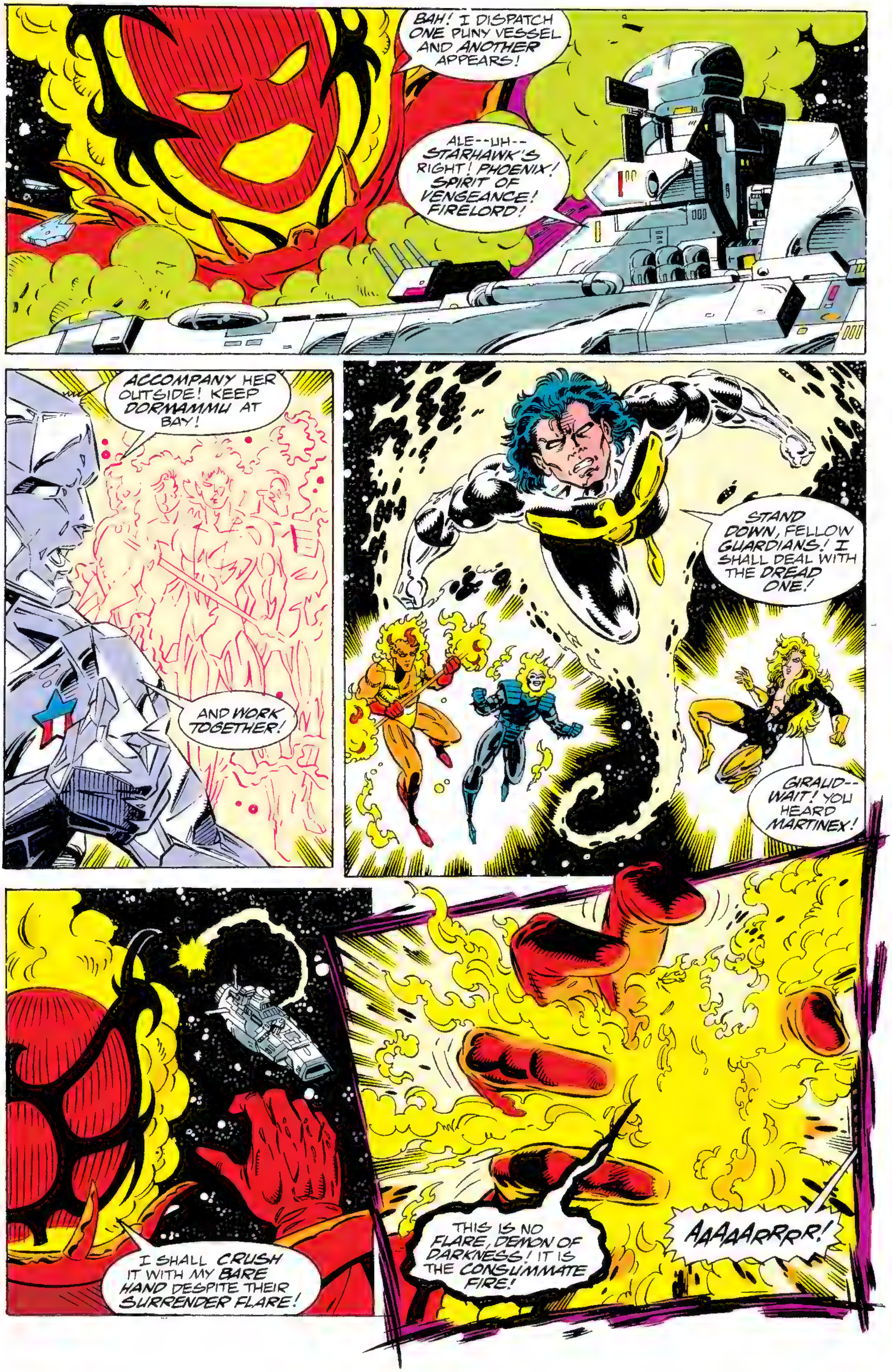
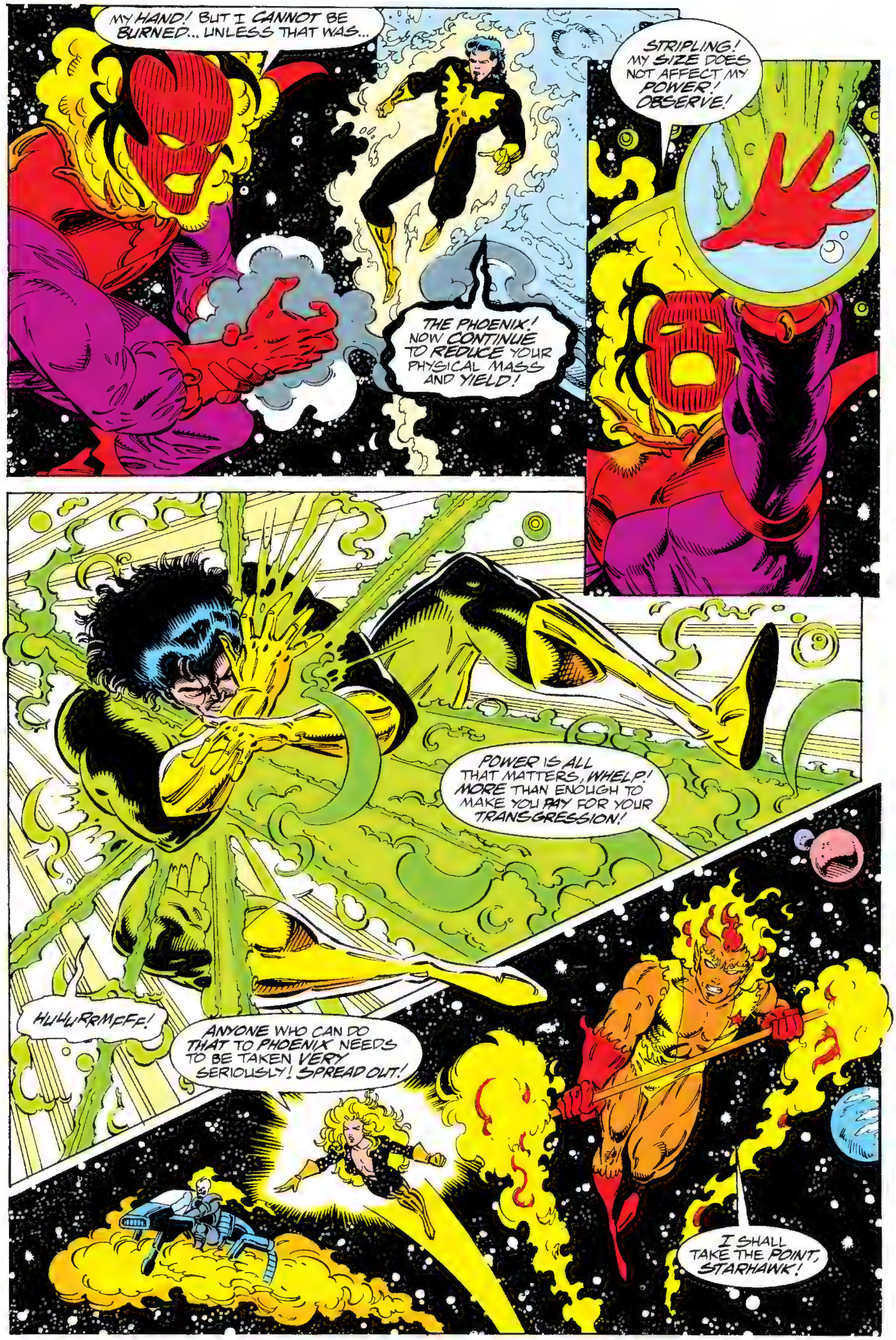
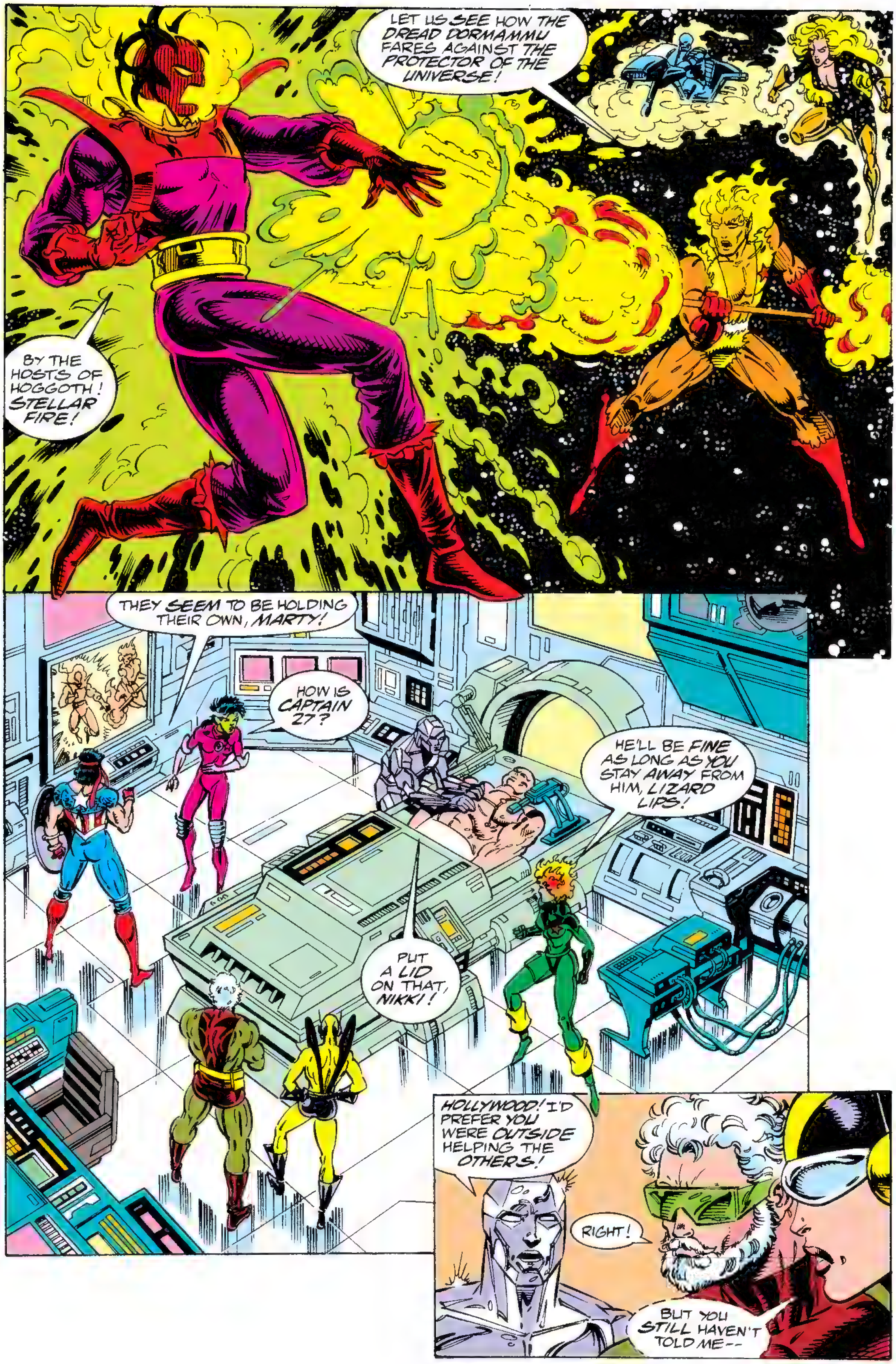
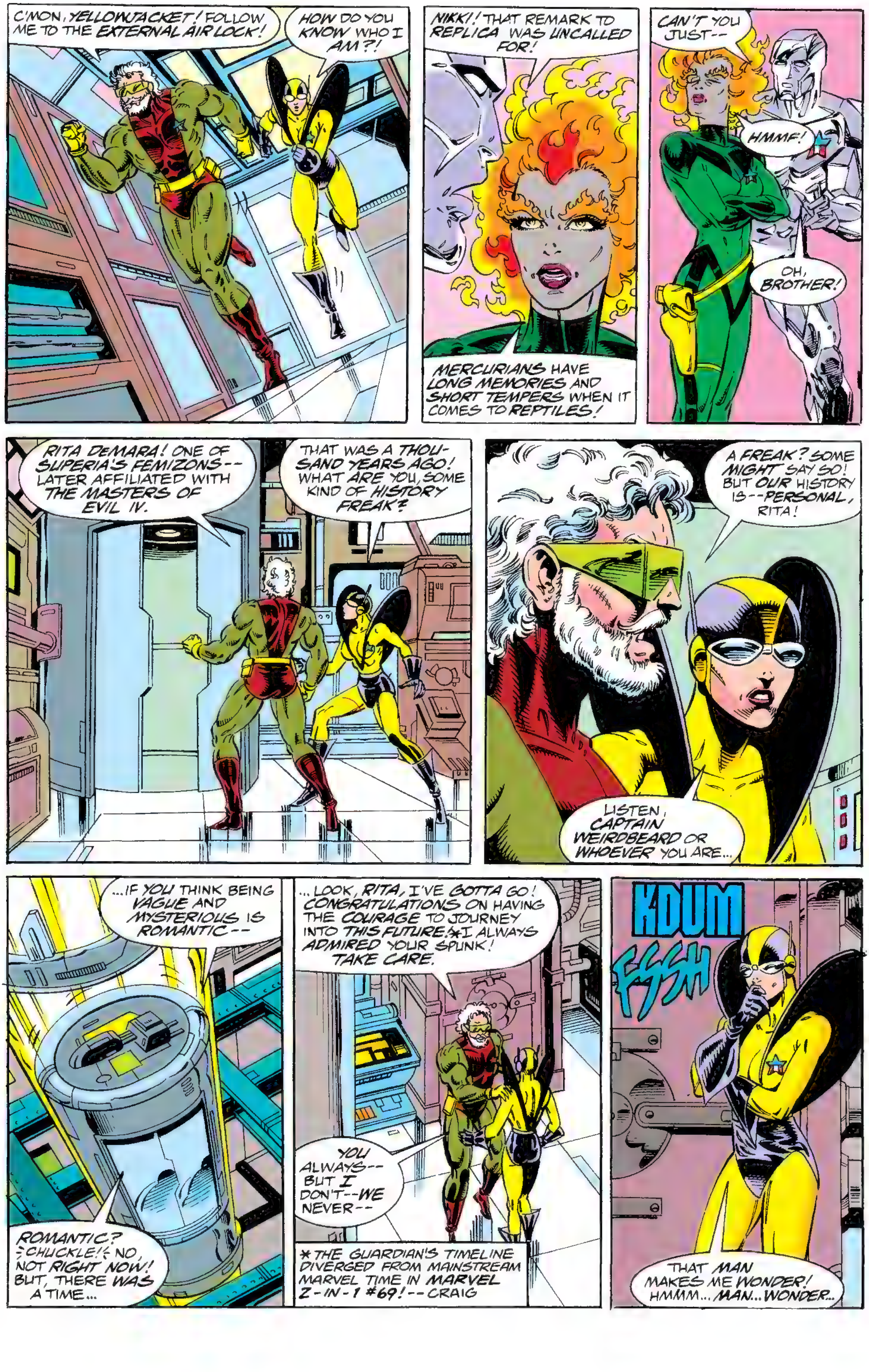
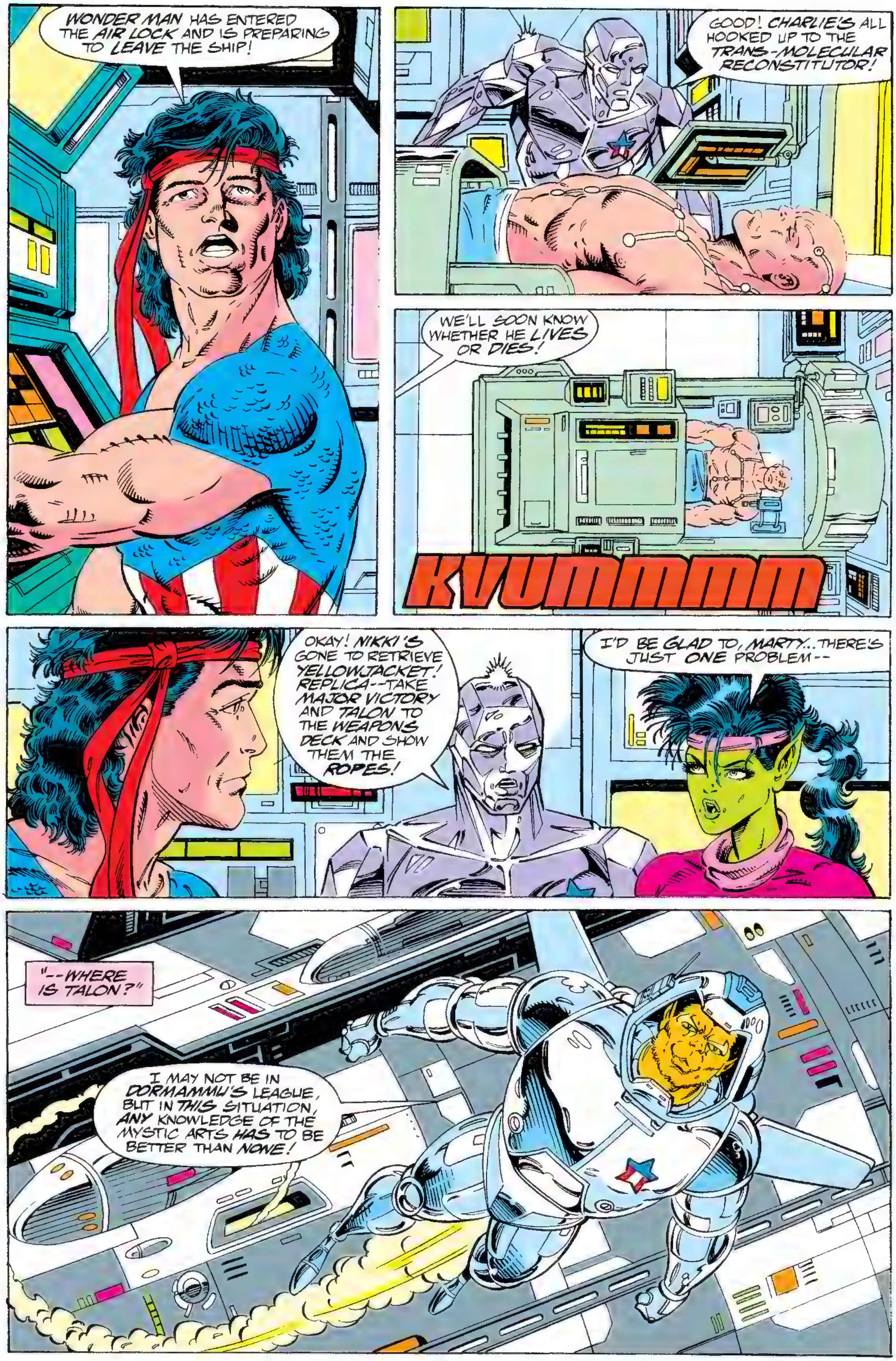

THE GUARDIANS COULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED THAT!
VENGEANCE SHALL BE OURS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MARTY? YOUR OLD TEAMMATES WERE JUST BLOWN AWAY AND YOU JUST SIT THERE--
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF HIM!
XANDAR'S MOONS!
MARTY! JUST IN THE PROVERBIAL NICK OF TIME! THANKS!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, VANCE... ALL OF YOU!
QUIET! ALL OF YOU!
I'M READING SIX LIFE FORMS...
...LOCKED-- LOADED-- GOT THEM!
HARKOV'S BONES!
YELLOWJACKET! ALLOW ME TO CARRY CAPTAIN 27 TO SICK BAY!
HUH? WHAT? DO I KNOW YOU?
LET'S DISCUSS IT ALONG THE WAY, SHALL WE, RITA?
UHHH-- SURE!
CHARLIE WEIGHS A QUARTER TON AND HE LIFTED HIM LIKE A FEATHER! WHO IS THIS GUY?
ALETA! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!
CALL ME STARHAWK! AND I SUGGEST WE POSTPONE THE REUNION, MARTINEX! WE STILL HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM OUT THERE!

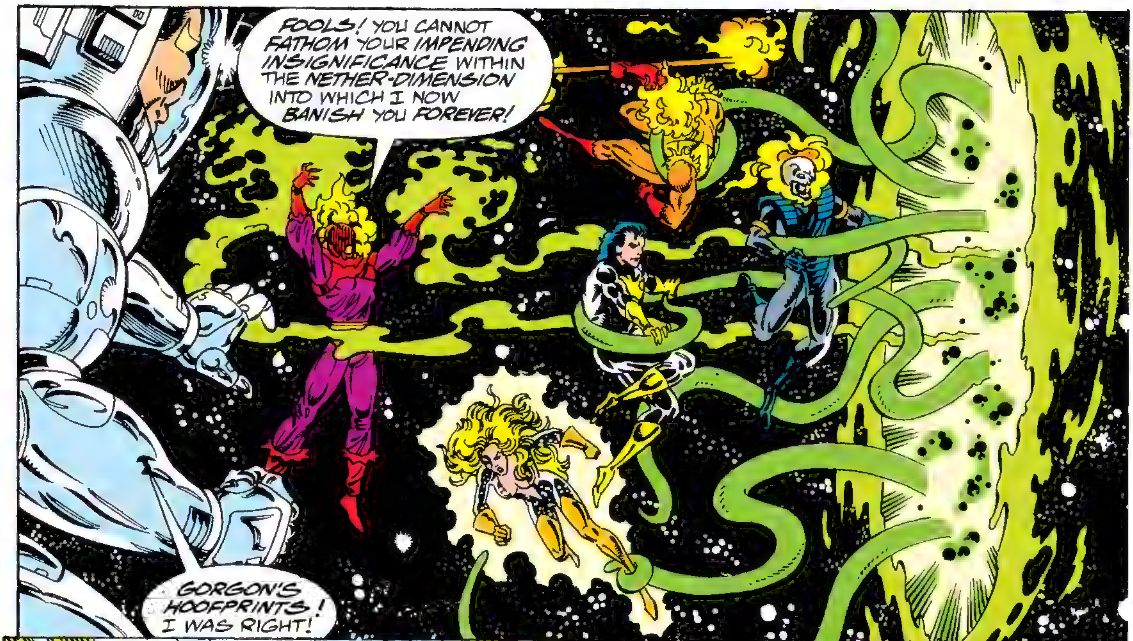

BAH! I DISPATCH ONE PUNY VESSEL AND ANOTHER APPEARS!
ALE--UH--STARHAWK'S RIGHT! PHOENIX! SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE! FIRELORD!
ACCOMPANY HER OUTSIDE! KEEP DORMAMMU AT BAY!
AND WORK TOGETHER!
STAND DOWN, FELLOW GUARDIANS! I SHALL DEAL WITH THE DREAD ONE!
GIRAUD--WAIT! YOU HEARD MARTINEX!
I SHALL CRUSH IT WITH MY BARE HAND DESPITE THEIR SURRENDER FLARE!
THIS IS NO FLARE, DEMON OF DARKNESS! IT IS THE CONSUMMATE FIRE!
AAAAARRRR!

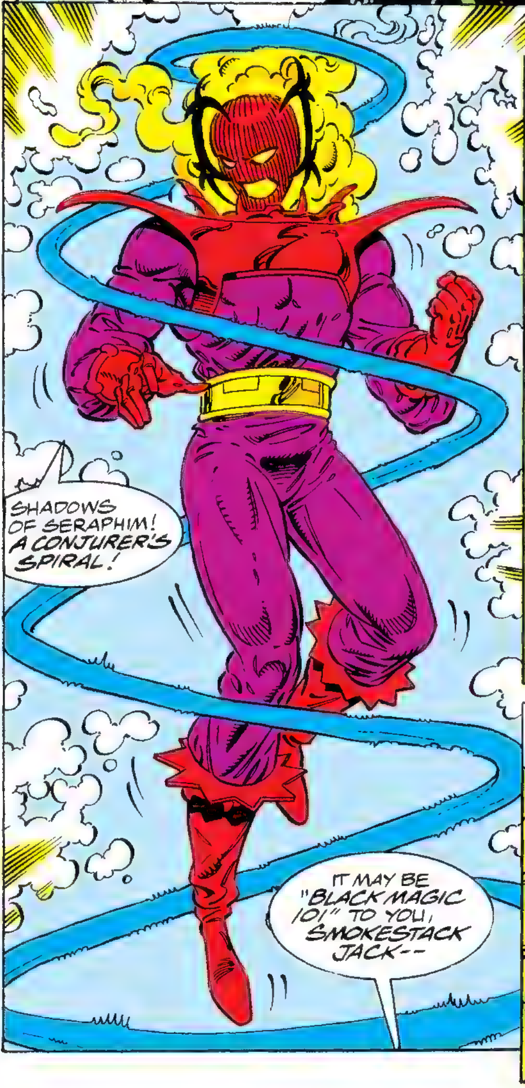

MY HAND! BUT I CANNOT BE BURNED... UNLESS THAT WAS...
THE PHOENIX! NOW CONTINUE TO REDUCE YOUR PHYSICAL MASS AND YIELD!
STRIPLING! MY SIZE DOES NOT AFFECT MY POWER! OBSERVE!
POWER IS ALL THAT MATTERS, WHELP! MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR YOUR TRANSGRESSION!
HUURRMFF!
ANYONE WHO CAN DO THAT TO PHOENIX NEEDS TO BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY! SPREAD OUT!
I SHALL TAKE THE POINT, STARHAWK!

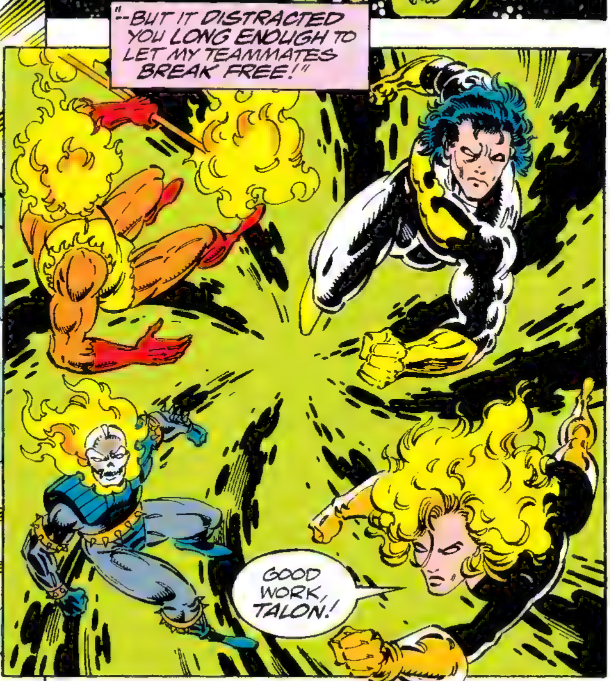

LET US SEE HOW THE DREAD DORMAMMU FARES AGAINST THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE!
BY THE HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! STELLAR FIRE!
THEY SEEM TO BE HOLDING THEIR OWN, MARTY!
HOW IS CAPTAIN 27?
HE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU STAY AWAY FROM HIM, LIZARD LIPS!
PUT A LID ON THAT, NIKKI!
HOLLYWOOD! I'D PREFER YOU WERE OUTSIDE HELPING THE OTHERS!
RIGHT!
BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME--

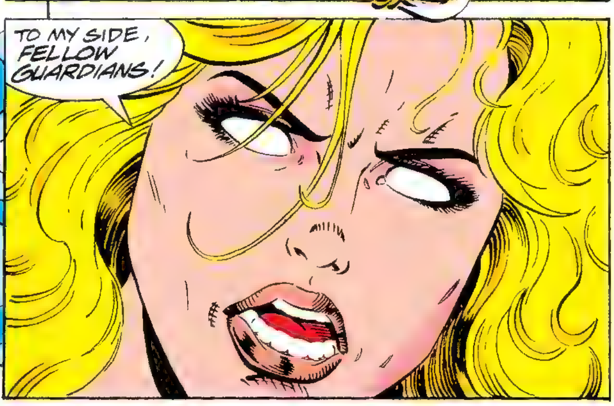

C'MON, YELLOWJACKET! FOLLOW ME TO THE EXTERNAL AIR LOCK!
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!
NIKKI! THAT REMARK TO REPLICA WAS UNCALLED FOR!
MERCURIANS HAVE LONG MEMORIES AND SHORT TEMPERS WHEN IT COMES TO REPTILES!
CAN'T YOU JUST--
HMMF!
OH, BROTHER!
RITA DEMARA! ONE OF SUPERIA'S FEMIZONS-- LATER AFFILIATED WITH THE MASTERS OF EVIL IV.
THAT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO! WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF HISTORY FREAK?
A FREAK? SOME MIGHT SAY SO! BUT OUR HISTORY IS--PERSONAL, RITA!
LISTEN, CAPTAIN WEIRDBEARD OR WHOEVER YOU ARE...
...IF YOU THINK BEING VAGUE AND MYSTERIOUS IS ROMANTIC--
ROMANTIC? :CHUCKLE!: NO, NOT RIGHT NOW! BUT, THERE WAS A TIME...
...LOOK, RITA, I'VE GOTTA GO! CONGRATULATIONS ON HAVING THE COURAGE TO JOURNEY INTO THIS FUTURE!* I ALWAYS ADMIRED YOUR SPUNK! TAKE CARE.
YOU ALWAYS-- BUT I DON'T--WE NEVER--
*THE GUARDIAN'S TIMELINE DIVERGED FROM MAINSTREAM MARVEL TIME IN MARVEL 2-IN-1 #69! --CRAIG
KDUM
FSSH
THAT MAN MAKES ME WONDER! HMMM... MAN... WONDER...

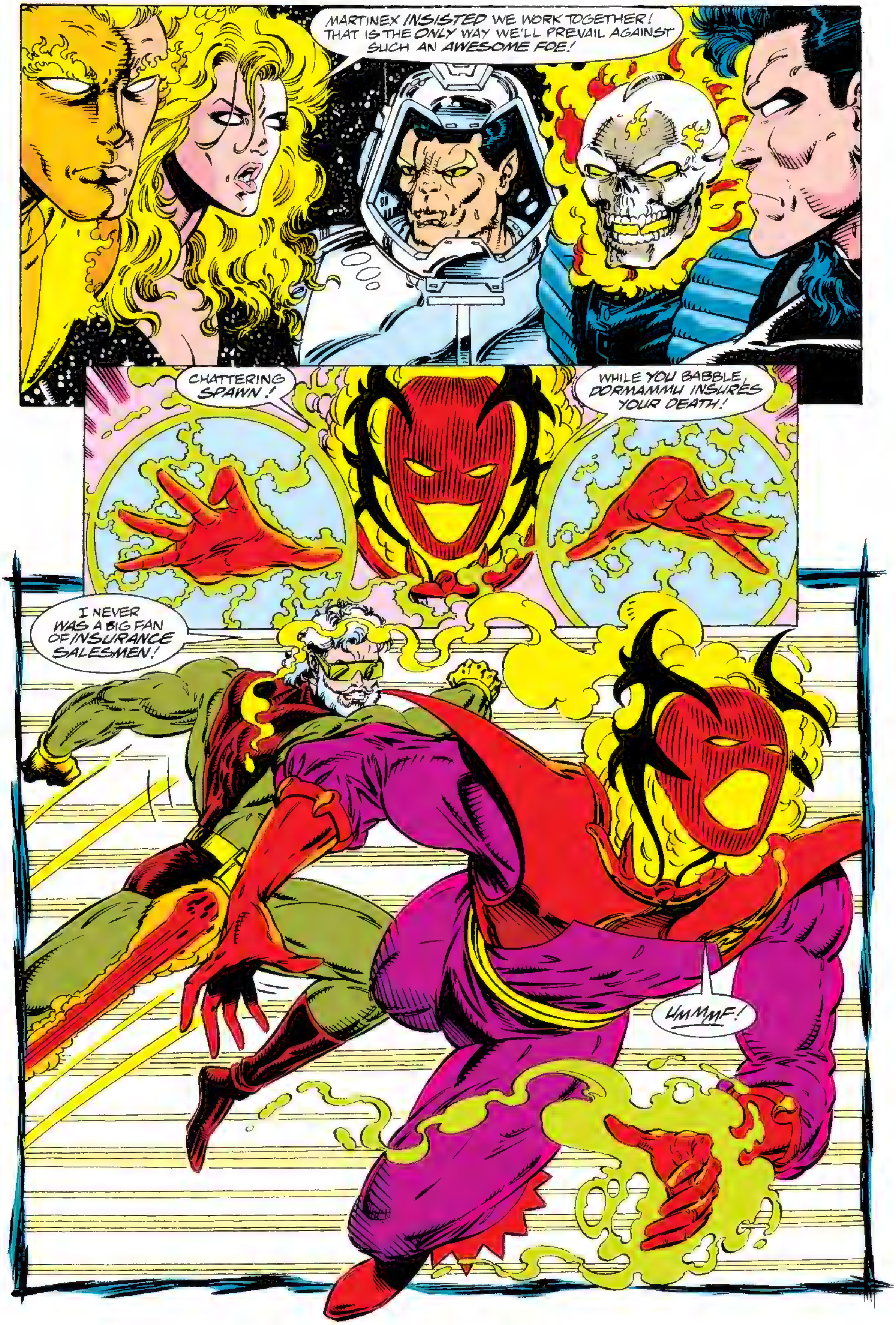

WONDER MAN HAS ENTERED THE AIR LOCK AND IS PREPARING TO LEAVE THE SHIP!
GOOD! CHARLIE'S ALL HOOKED UP TO THE TRANS-MOLECULAR RECONSTITUTOR!
WE'LL SOON KNOW WHETHER HE LIVES OR DIES!
KVUMMMMM
OKAY! NIKKI'S GONE TO RETRIEVE YELLOWJACKET! REPLICA--TAKE MAJOR VICTORY AND TALON TO THE WEAPONS DECK AND SHOW THEM THE ROPES!
I'D BE GLAD TO, MARTY... THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM--
"--WHERE IS TALON?"
I MAY NOT BE IN DORMAMMU'S LEAGUE, BUT IN THIS SITUATION, ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTIC ARTS HAS TO BE BETTER THAN NONE!

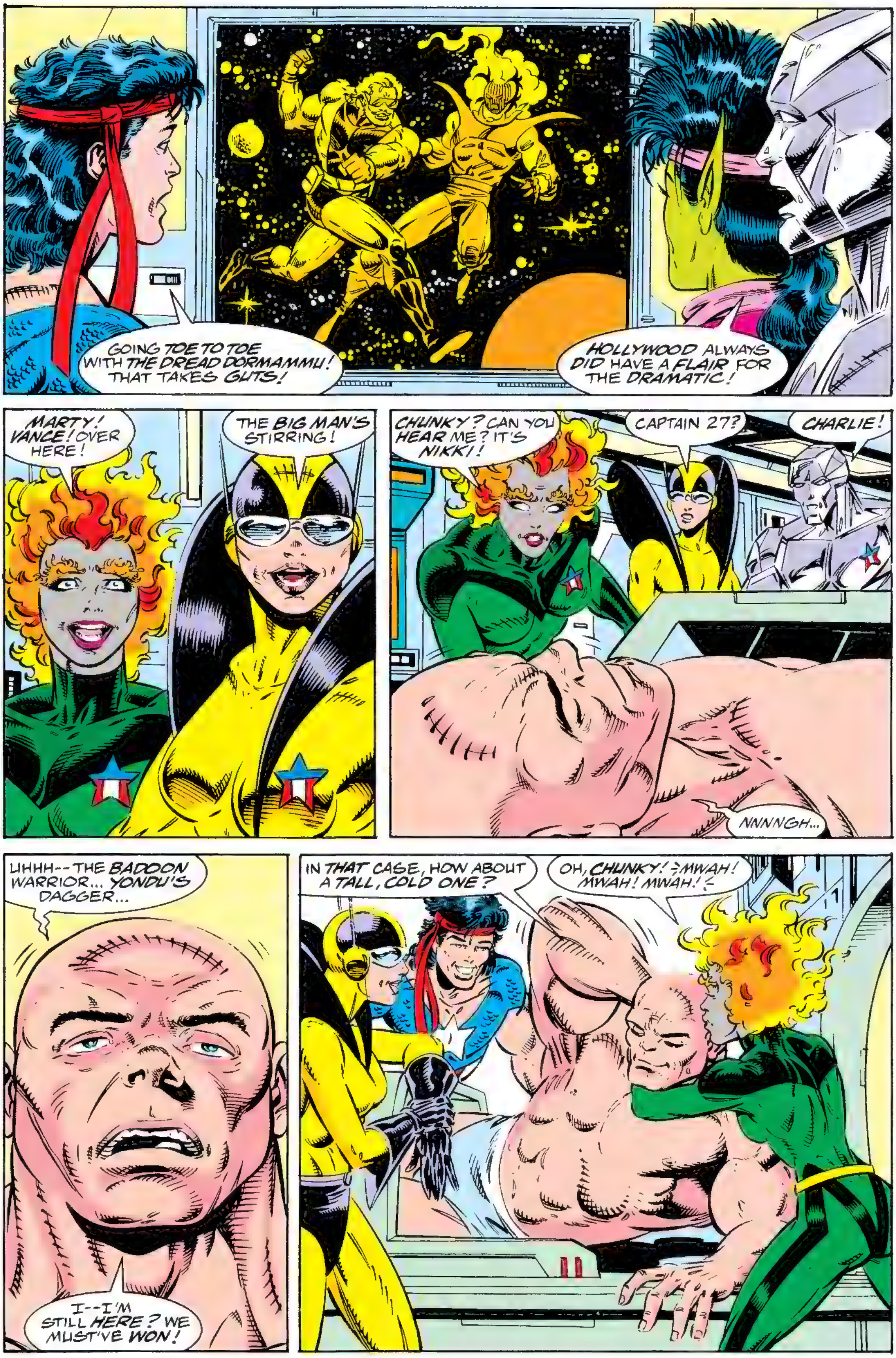

FOOLS! YOU CANNOT FATHOM YOUR IMPENDING INSIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE NETHER-DIMENSION INTO WHICH I NOW BANISH YOU FOREVER!
GORGON'S HOOFPRINTS! I WAS RIGHT!

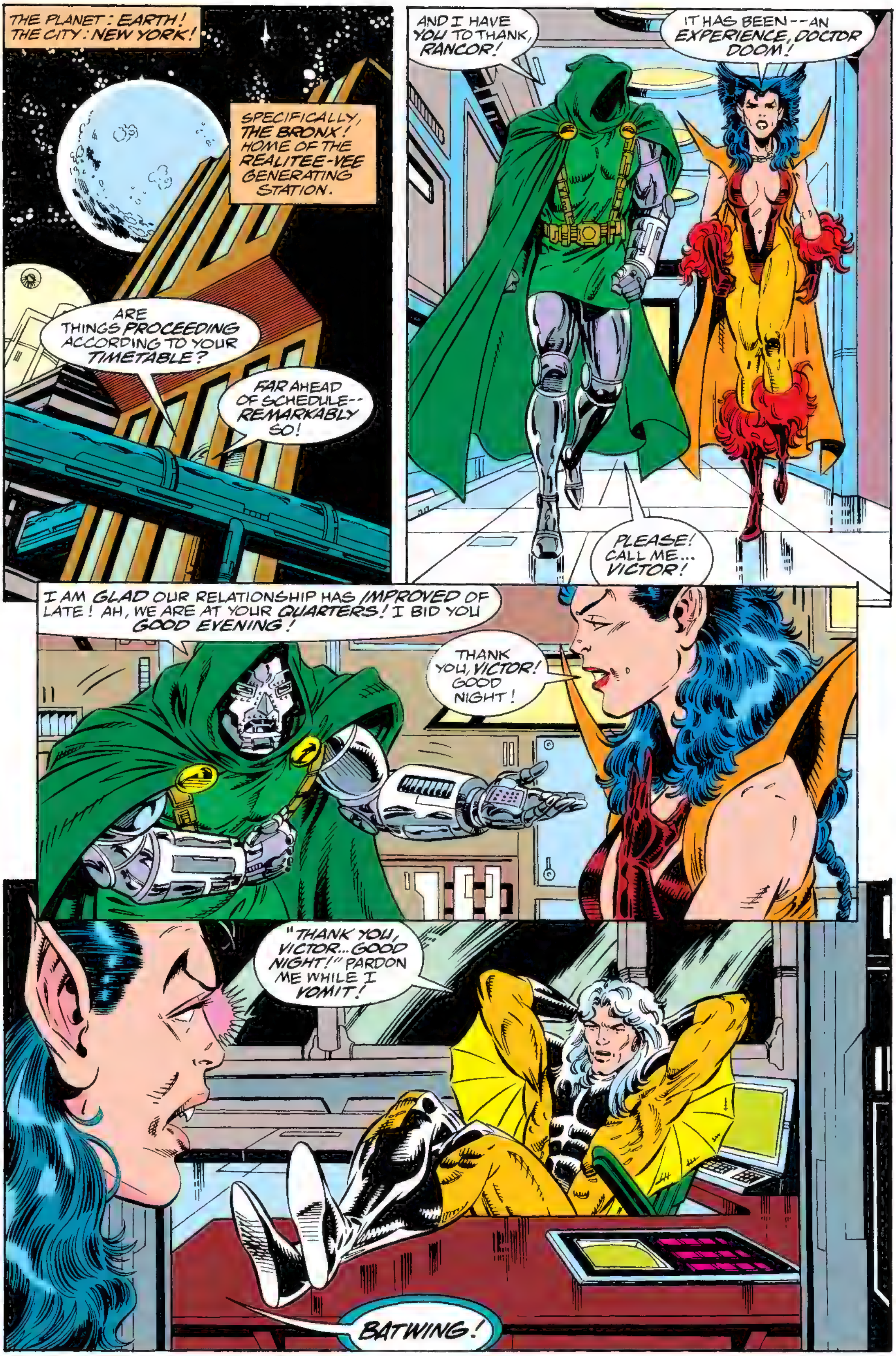

SHADOWS OF SERAPHIM! A CONJURER'S SPIRAL!
IT MAY BE "BLACK MAGIC 101" TO YOU, SMOKESTACK JACK--

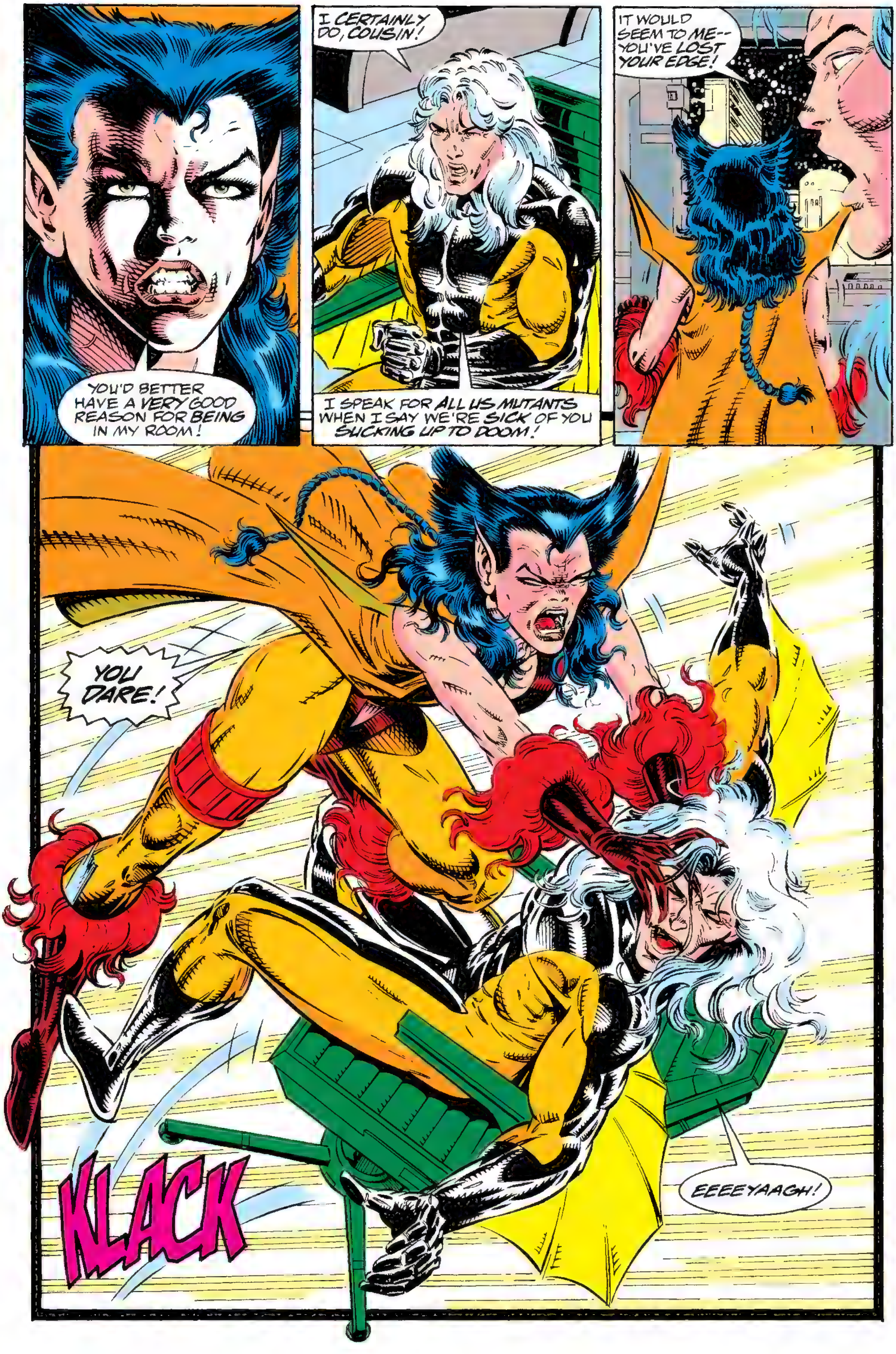

"--BUT IT DISTRACTED YOU LONG ENOUGH TO LET MY TEAMMATES BREAK FREE!"
GOOD WORK, TALON!

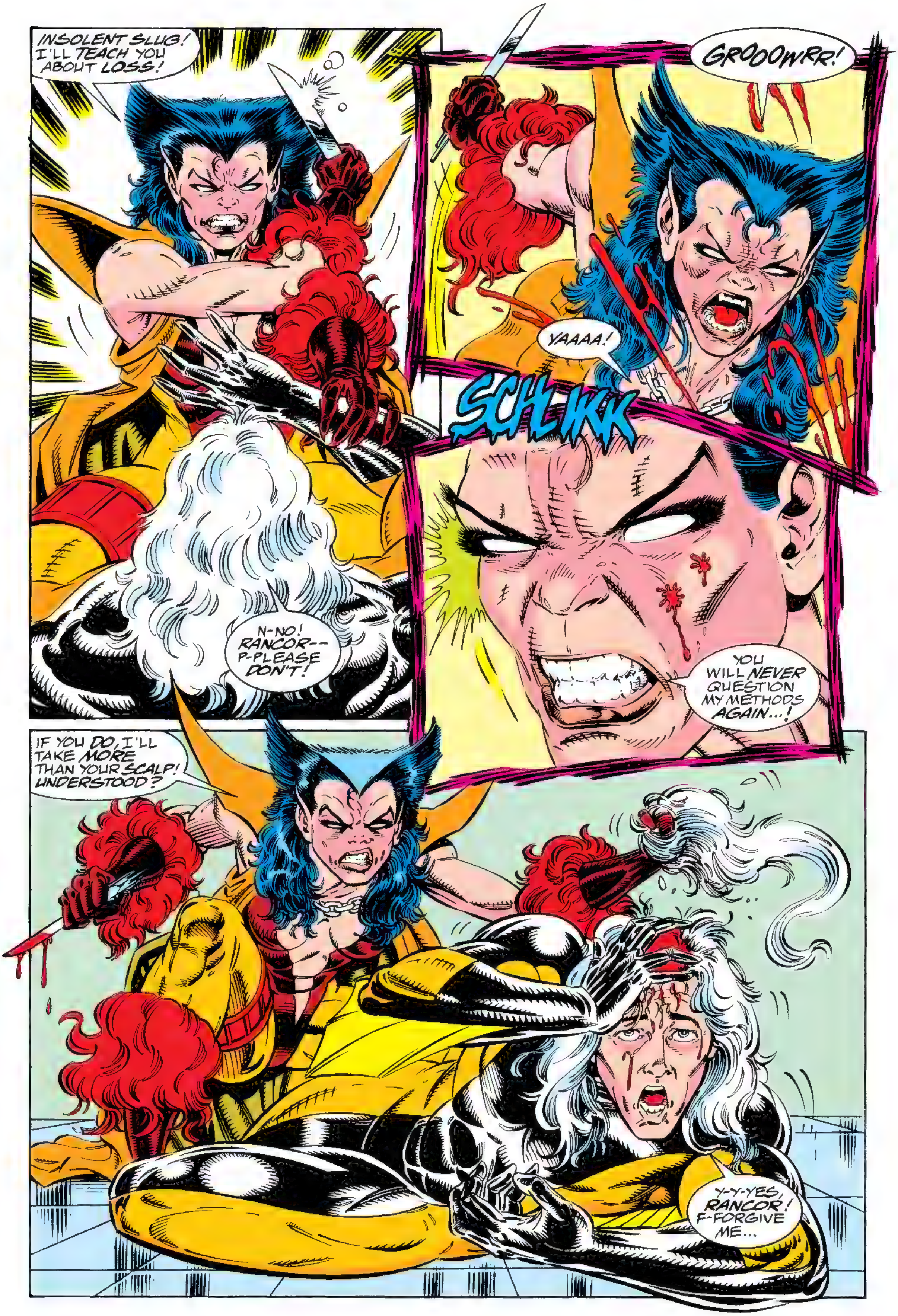

TO MY SIDE, FELLOW GUARDIANS!

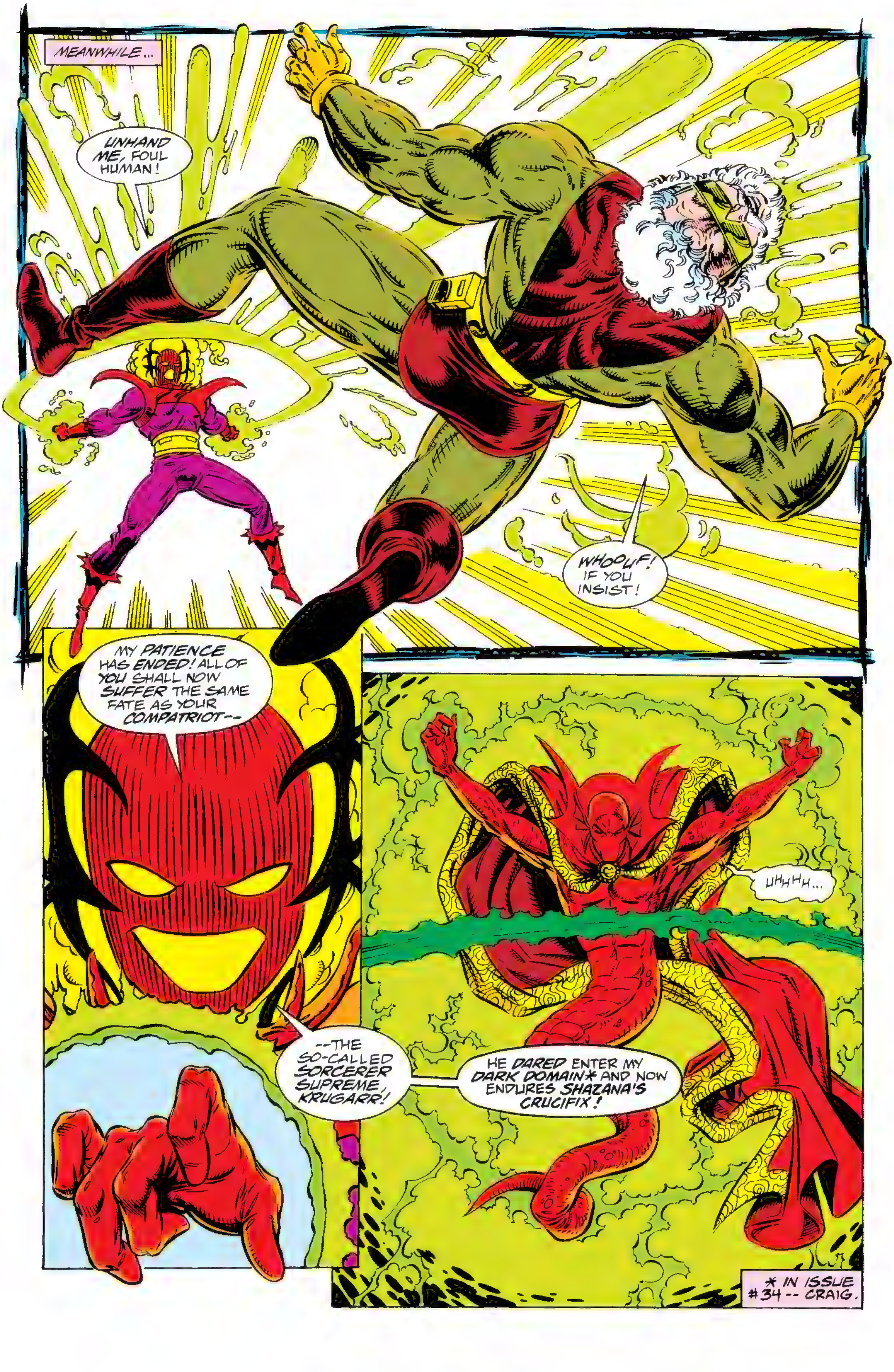

MARTINEX *INSISTED* WE WORK TOGETHER! THAT IS THE *ONLY* WAY WE'LL PREVAIL AGAINST SUCH AN *AWESOME FOE*!
CHATTERING *SPAWN*!
WHILE *YOU* BABBLE, *DORMAMMU INSURES YOUR DEATH*!
I NEVER WAS A BIG FAN OF *INSURANCE SALESMEN*!
UMMMF!

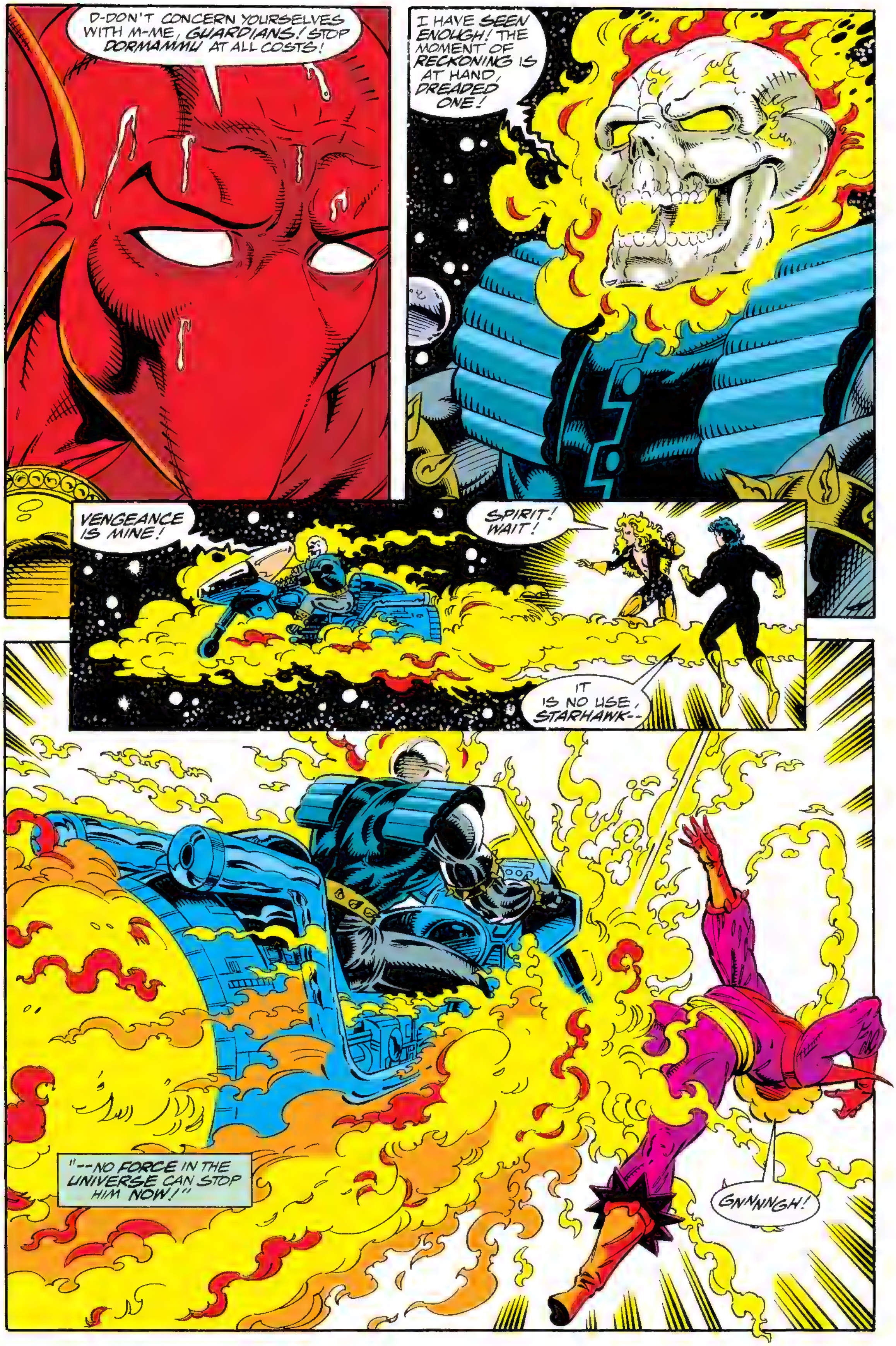

GOING TOE TO TOE WITH THE DREAD DORMAMMU! THAT TAKES GUTS!
HOLLYWOOD ALWAYS DID HAVE A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC!
MARTY! VANCE! OVER HERE!
THE BIG MAN'S STIRRING!
CHUNKY? CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S NIKKI!
CAPTAIN 27?
CHARLIE!
NNNNGH...
UHHH--THE BADOON WARRIOR... YONDU'S DAGGER...
I--I'M STILL HERE? WE MUST'VE WON!
IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT A TALL, COLD ONE?
OH, CHUNKY! ⊰MWAH! MWAH! MWAH!⊱

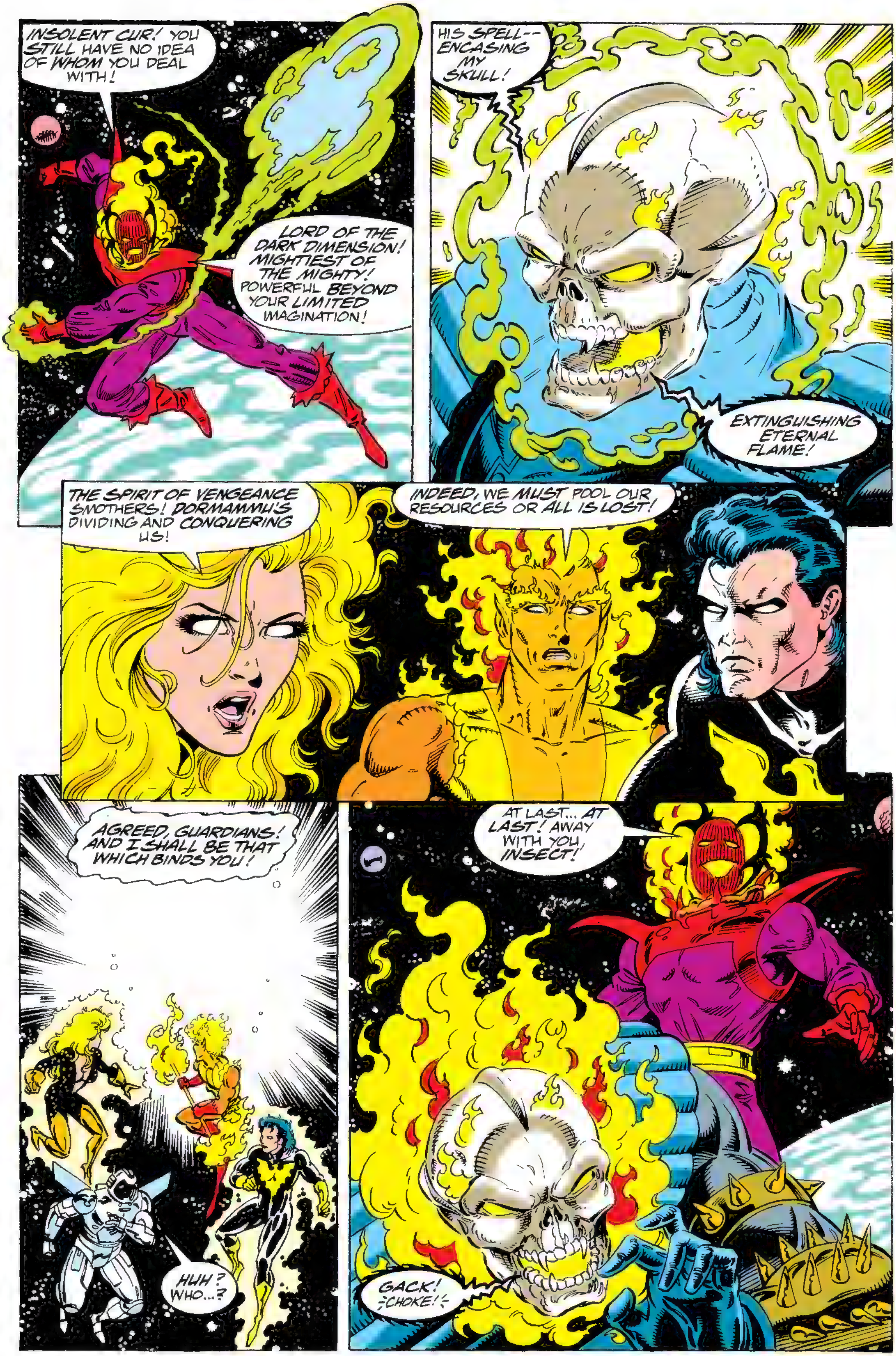

THE PLANET: EARTH! THE CITY: NEW YORK!
SPECIFICALLY, THE BRONX! HOME OF THE REALITEE-VEE GENERATING STATION.
ARE THINGS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO YOUR TIMETABLE?
FAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE-- REMARKABLY SO!
AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK, RANCOR!
IT HAS BEEN--AN EXPERIENCE, DOCTOR DOOM!
PLEASE! CALL ME... VICTOR!
I AM GLAD OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS IMPROVED OF LATE! AH, WE ARE AT YOUR QUARTERS! I BID YOU GOOD EVENING!
THANK YOU, VICTOR! GOOD NIGHT!
"THANK YOU, VICTOR... GOOD NIGHT!" PARDON ME WHILE I VOMIT!
BATWING!

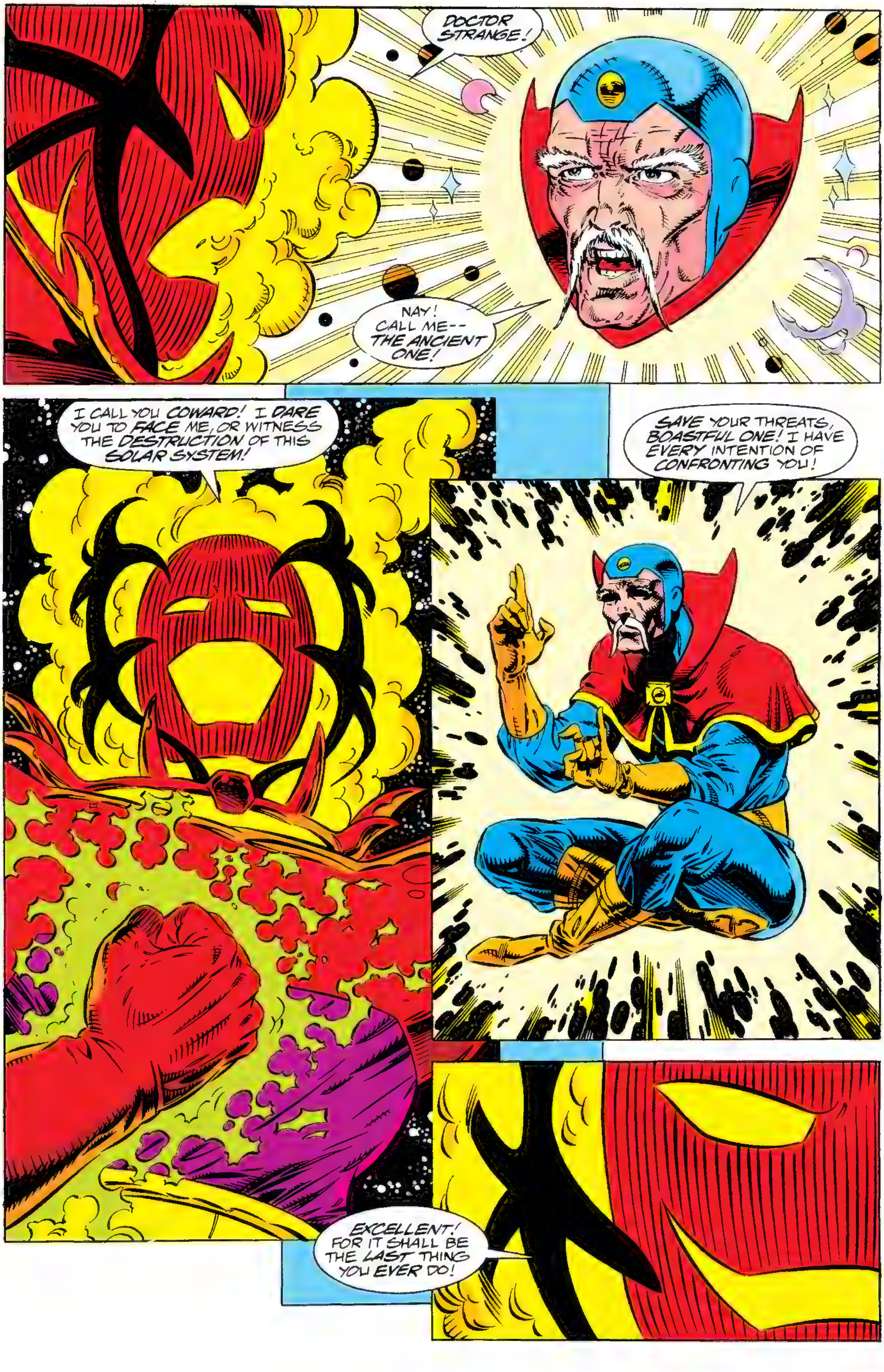

YOU'D BETTER HAVE A VERY GOOD REASON FOR BEING IN MY ROOM!
I CERTAINLY DO, COUSIN!
I SPEAK FOR ALL US MUTANTS WHEN I SAY WE'RE SICK OF YOU SUCKING UP TO DOOM!
IT WOULD SEEM TO ME-- YOU'VE LOST YOUR EDGE!
YOU DARE!
KLACK
EEEEYAAGH!

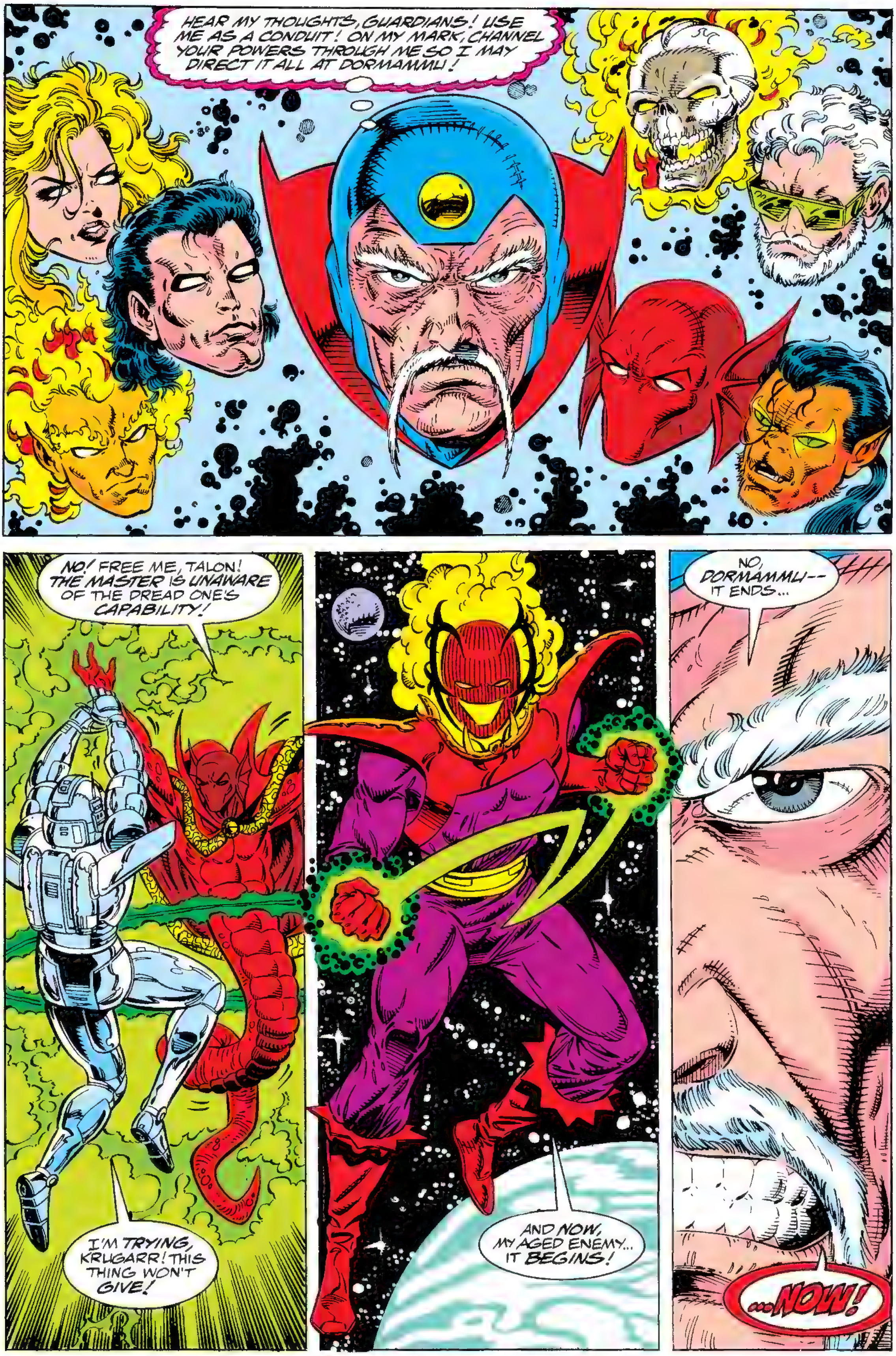

INSOLENT SLUG! I'LL TEACH YOU ABOUT LOSS!
N-NO! RANCOR-- P-PLEASE DON'T!
GROOOWRR!
YAAAA!
SCHLIKK
YOU WILL NEVER QUESTION MY METHODS AGAIN...!
IF YOU DO, I'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR SCALP! UNDERSTOOD?
Y-Y-YES, RANCOR! F-FORGIVE ME...

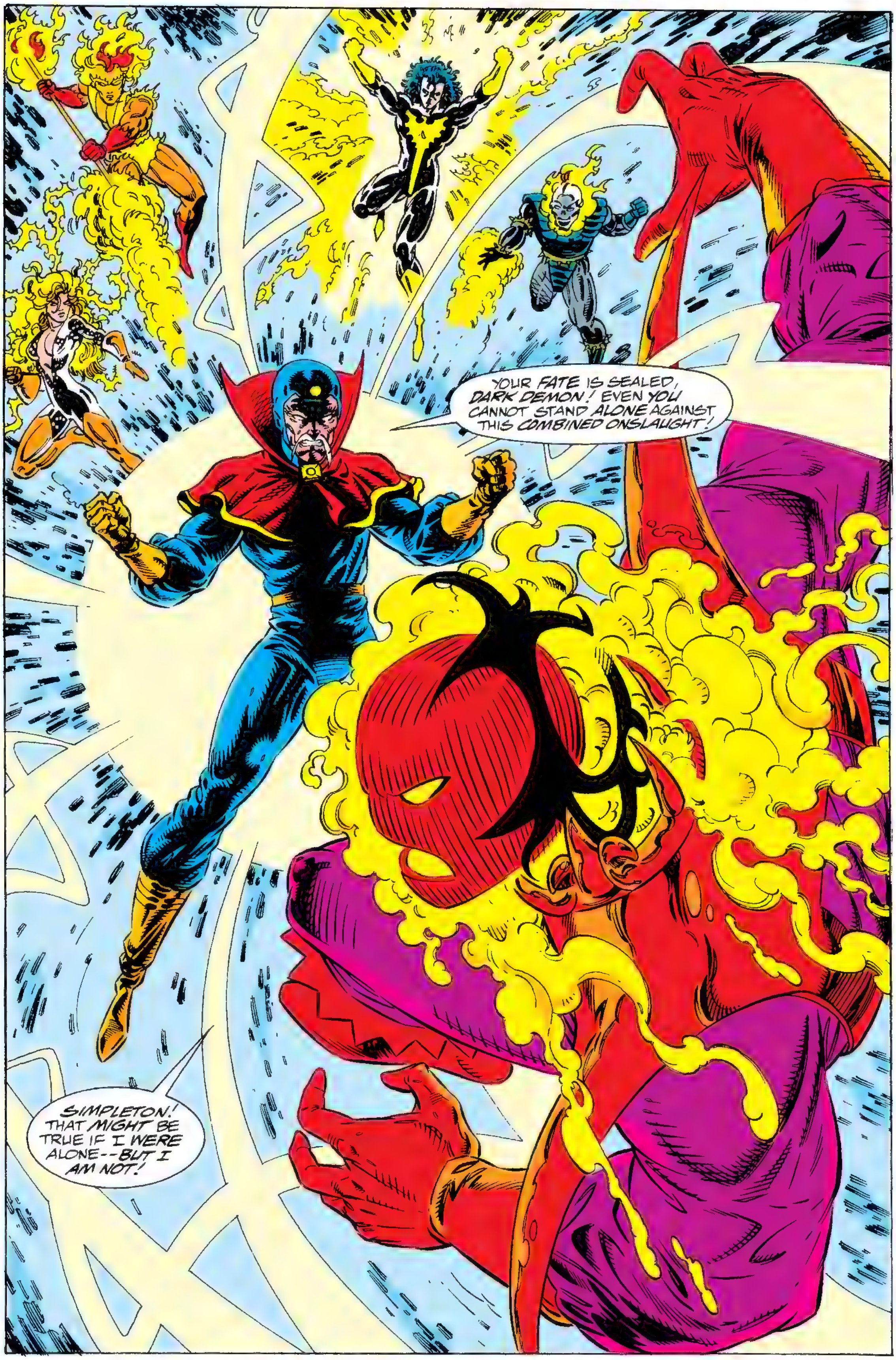

MEANWHILE...
UNHAND ME, FOUL HUMAN!
WHOOUF! IF YOU INSIST!
MY PATIENCE HAS ENDED! ALL OF YOU SHALL NOW SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS YOUR COMPATRIOT--
--THE SO-CALLED SORCERER SUPREME, KRUGARR!
HE DARED ENTER MY DARK DOMAIN* AND NOW ENDURES SHAZANA'S CRUCIFIX!
UHHHH...
* IN ISSUE #34 -- CRAIG.

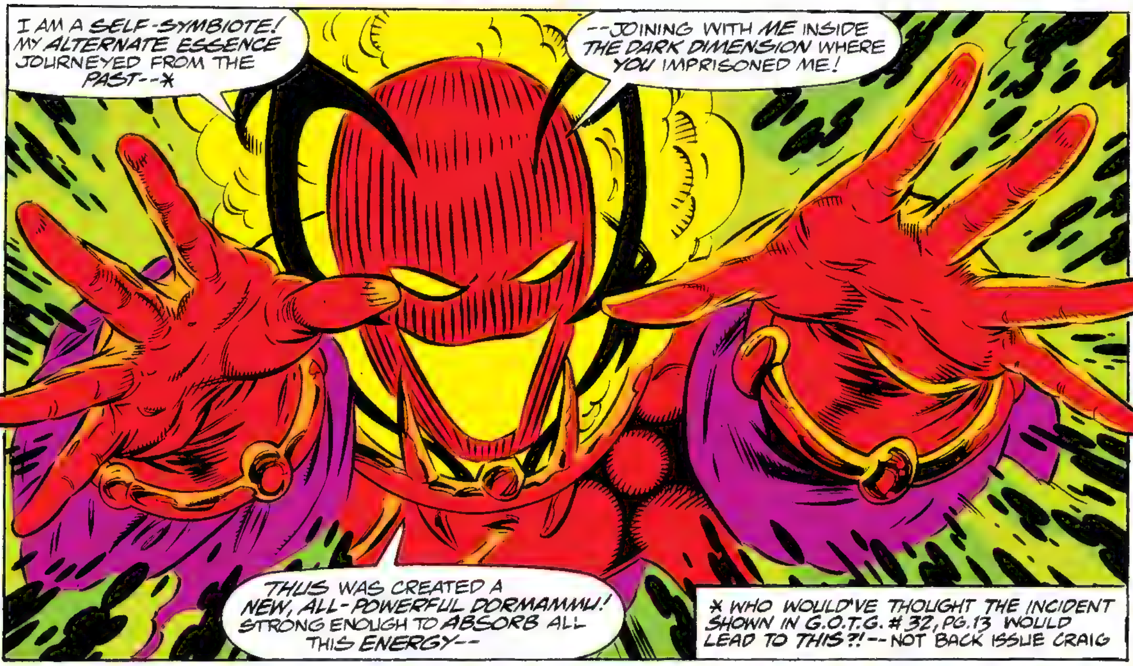

D-DON'T CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH M-ME, GUARDIANS! STOP DORMAMMU AT ALL COSTS!
I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH! THE MOMENT OF RECKONING IS AT HAND, DREADED ONE!
VENGEANCE IS MINE!
SPIRIT! WAIT!
IT IS NO USE, STARHAWK--
"--NO FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE CAN STOP HIM NOW!"
GNNNNGH!

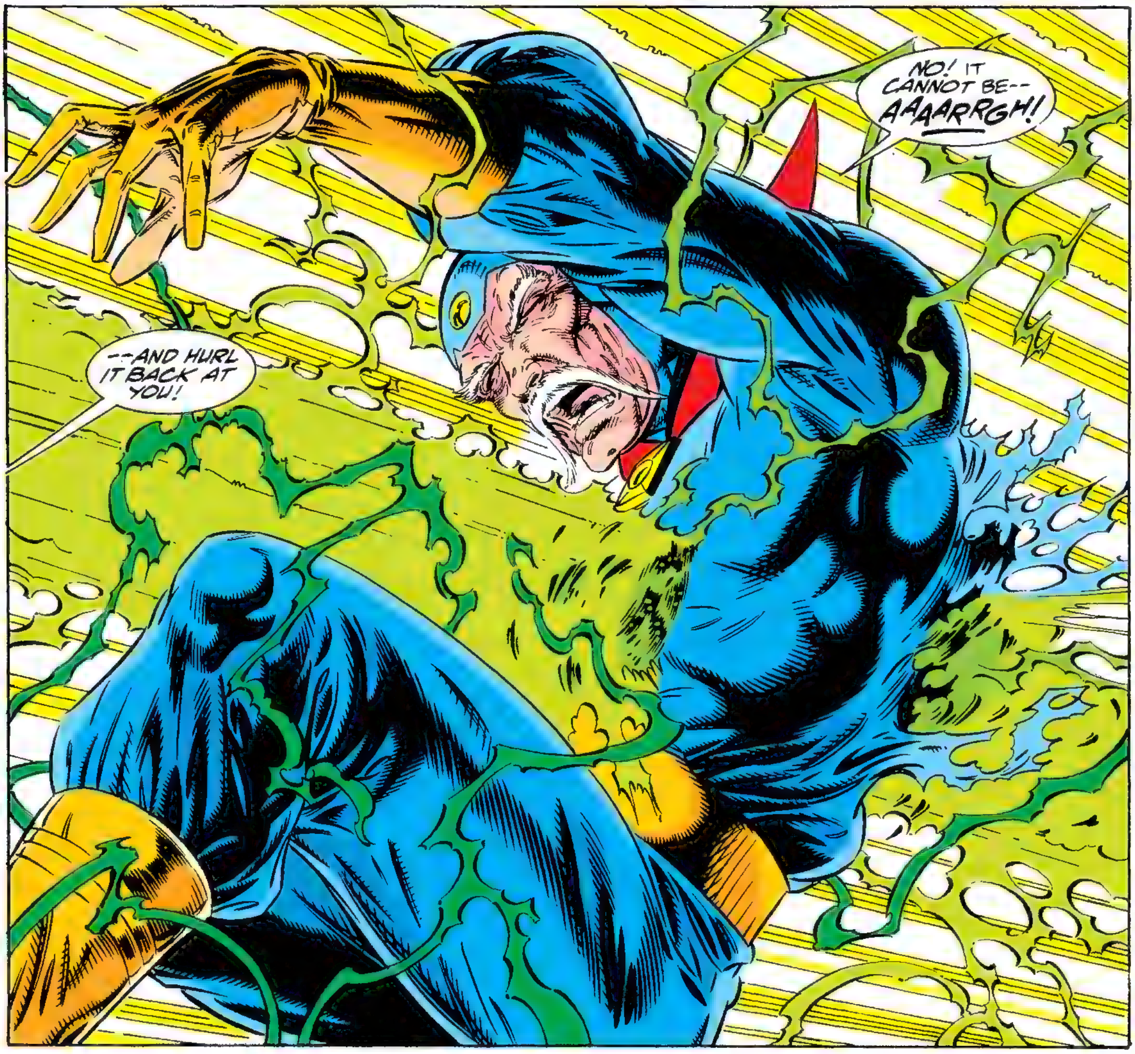

INSOLENT CUR! YOU STILL HAVE NO IDEA OF WHOM YOU DEAL WITH!
LORD OF THE DARK DIMENSION! MIGHTIEST OF THE MIGHTY! POWERFUL BEYOND YOUR LIMITED IMAGINATION!
HIS SPELL-- ENCASING MY SKULL!
EXTINGUISHING ETERNAL FLAME!
THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE SMOTHERS! DORMAMMU'S DIVIDING AND CONQUERING US!
INDEED, WE MUST POOL OUR RESOURCES OR ALL IS LOST!
AGREED, GUARDIANS! AND I SHALL BE THAT WHICH BINDS YOU!
HUH? WHO...?
AT LAST... AT LAST! AWAY WITH YOU, INSECT!
GACK! -CHOKE!-

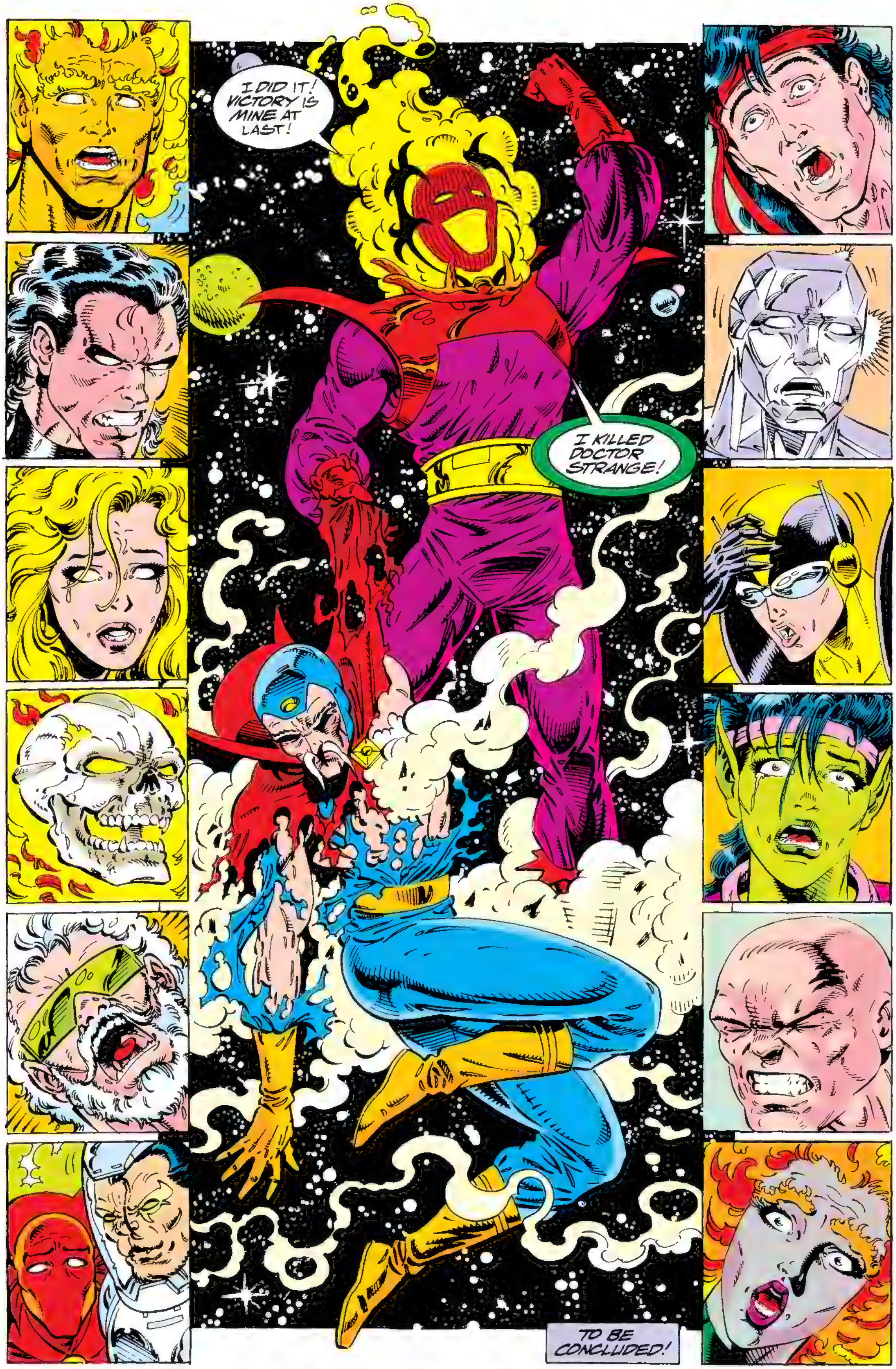

DOCTOR STRANGE!
NAY! CALL ME-- THE ANCIENT ONE!
I CALL YOU COWARD! I DARE YOU TO FACE ME, OR WITNESS THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!
SAVE YOUR THREATS, BOASTFUL ONE! I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF CONFRONTING YOU!
EXCELLENT! FOR IT SHALL BE THE LAST THING YOU EVER DO!


HEAR MY THOUGHTS, GUARDIANS! USE ME AS A CONDUIT! ON MY MARK, CHANNEL YOUR POWERS THROUGH ME SO I MAY DIRECT IT ALL AT DORMAMMU!
NO! FREE ME, TALON! THE MASTER IS UNAWARE OF THE DREAD ONE'S CAPABILITY!
I'M TRYING, KRUGARR! THIS THING WON'T GIVE!
AND NOW, MY AGED ENEMY... IT BEGINS!
NO, DORMAMMU-- IT ENDS...
...NOW!


YOUR *FATE* IS SEALED, *DARK DEMON!* EVEN *YOU* CANNOT STAND *ALONE* AGAINST THIS *COMBINED ONSLAUGHT!*
SIMPLETON! THAT *MIGHT* BE TRUE IF I *WERE* ALONE--*BUT* I *AM NOT!*


I AM A SELF-SYMBIOTE! MY ALTERNATE ESSENCE JOURNEYED FROM THE PAST--*
--JOINING WITH ME INSIDE THE DARK DIMENSION WHERE YOU IMPRISONED ME!
THUS WAS CREATED A NEW, ALL-POWERFUL DORMAMMU! STRONG ENOUGH TO ABSORB ALL THIS ENERGY--
* WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THE INCIDENT SHOWN IN G.O.T.G. # 32, PG.13 WOULD LEAD TO THIS?! --NOT BACK ISSUE CRAIG


NO! IT CANNOT BE-- AAAARRGH!
--AND HURL IT BACK AT YOU!


I DID IT! VICTORY IS MINE AT LAST!
I KILLED DOCTOR STRANGE!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

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37
JUN
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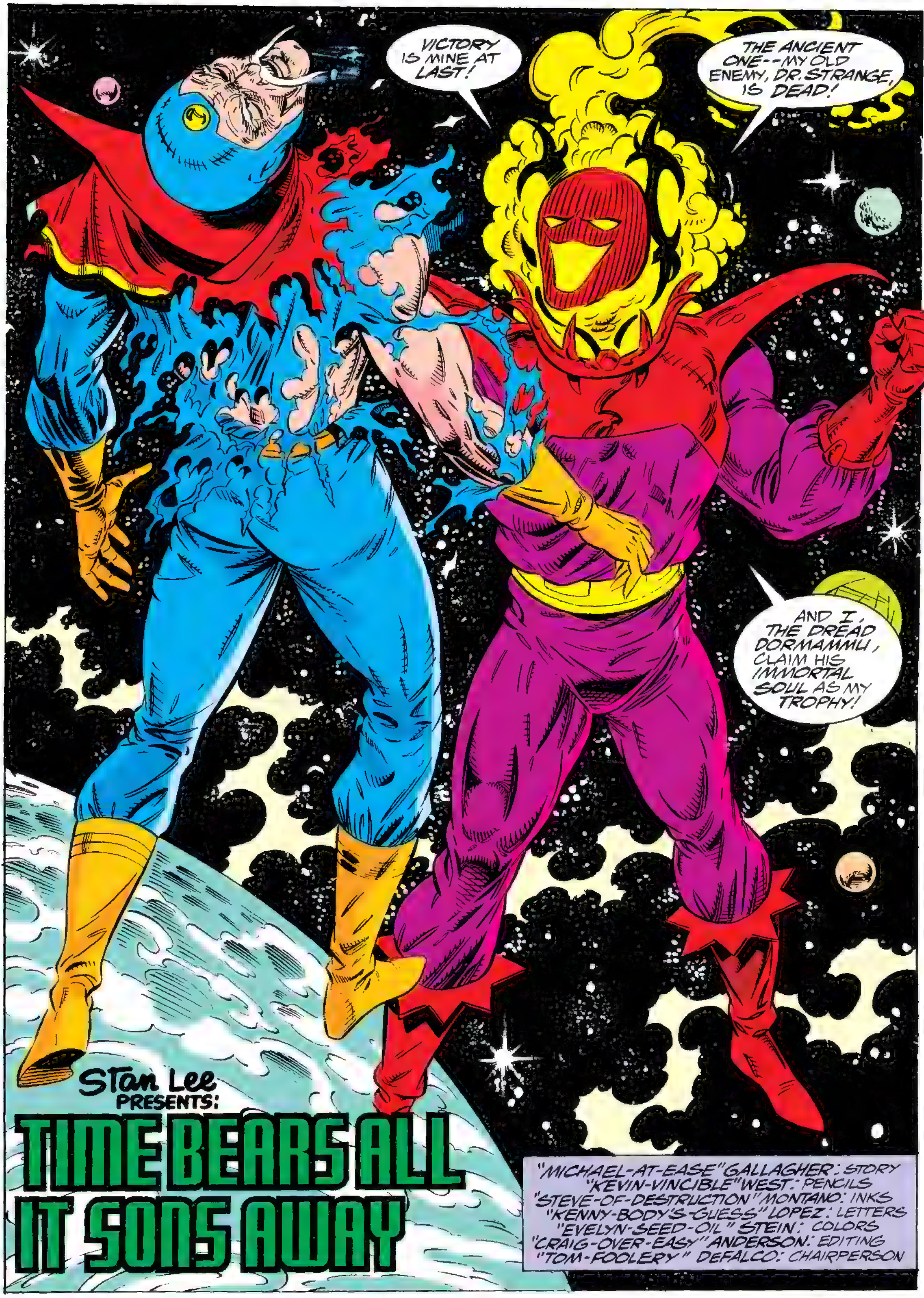
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DR. STRANGE® IS DEAD!
WEST & MONTANA
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
30TH
30 YEARS 1963-1993
CAN EVEN THE 31ST CENTURY SORCERER SUPREME™ SURVIVE AGAINST THE FATAL FURY OF THE DREAD DORMAMMU?


VICTORY IS MINE AT LAST!
THE ANCIENT ONE--MY OLD ENEMY, DR. STRANGE, IS DEAD!
AND I, THE DREAD DORMAMMU, CLAIM HIS IMMORTAL SOUL AS MY TROPHY!
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TIME BEARS ALL IT SONS AWAY
"MICHAEL-AT-EASE" GALLAGHER: STORY
"KEVIN-VINCIBLE" WEST: PENCILS
"STEVE-OF-DESTRUCTION" MONTANO: INKS
"KENNY-BODY'S-GUESS" LOPEZ: LETTERS
"EVELYN-SEED-OIL" STEIN: COLORS
"CRAIG-OVER-EASY" ANDERSON: EDITING
"TOM-FOOLERY" DEFALCO: CHAIRPERSON

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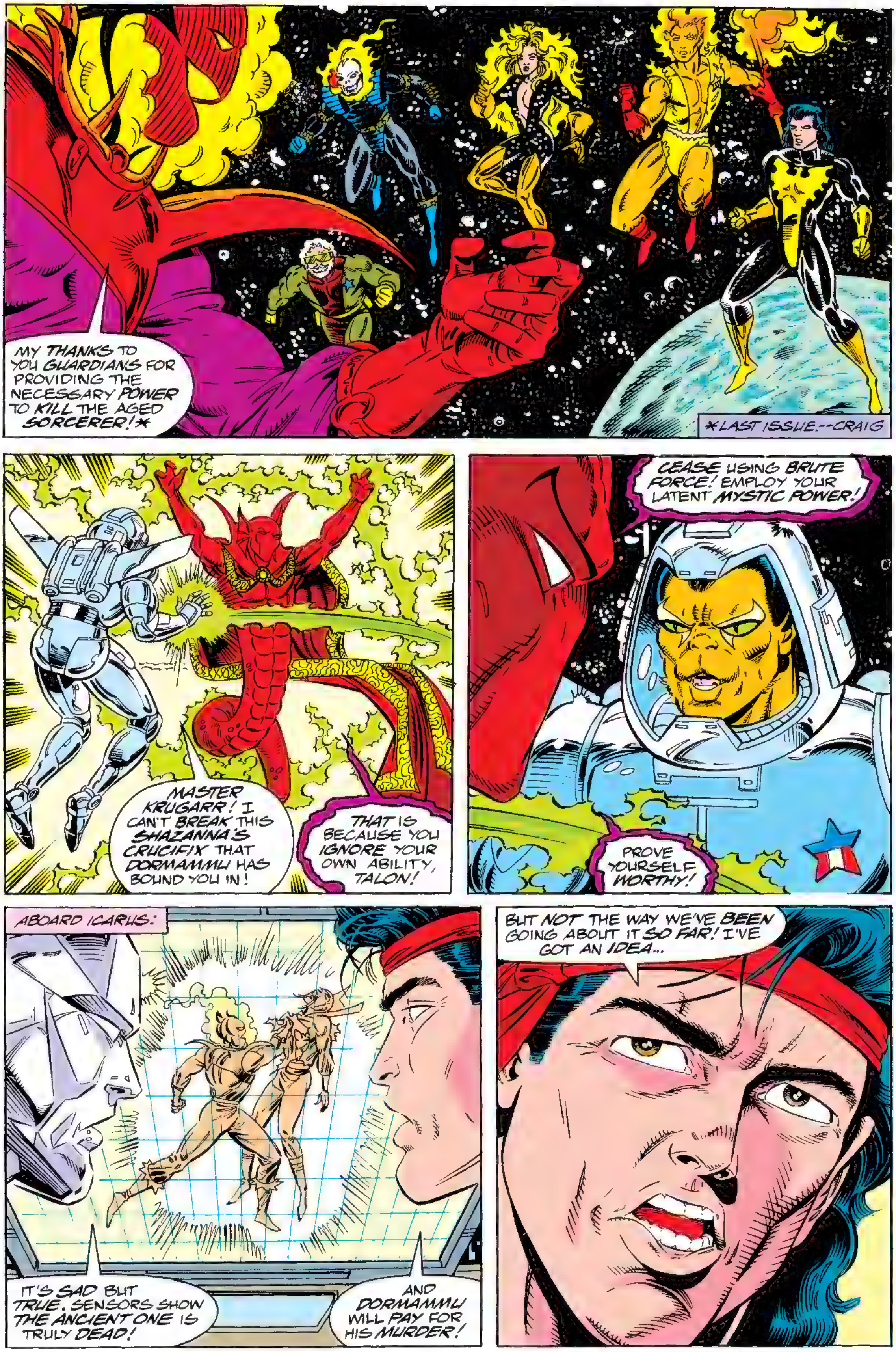
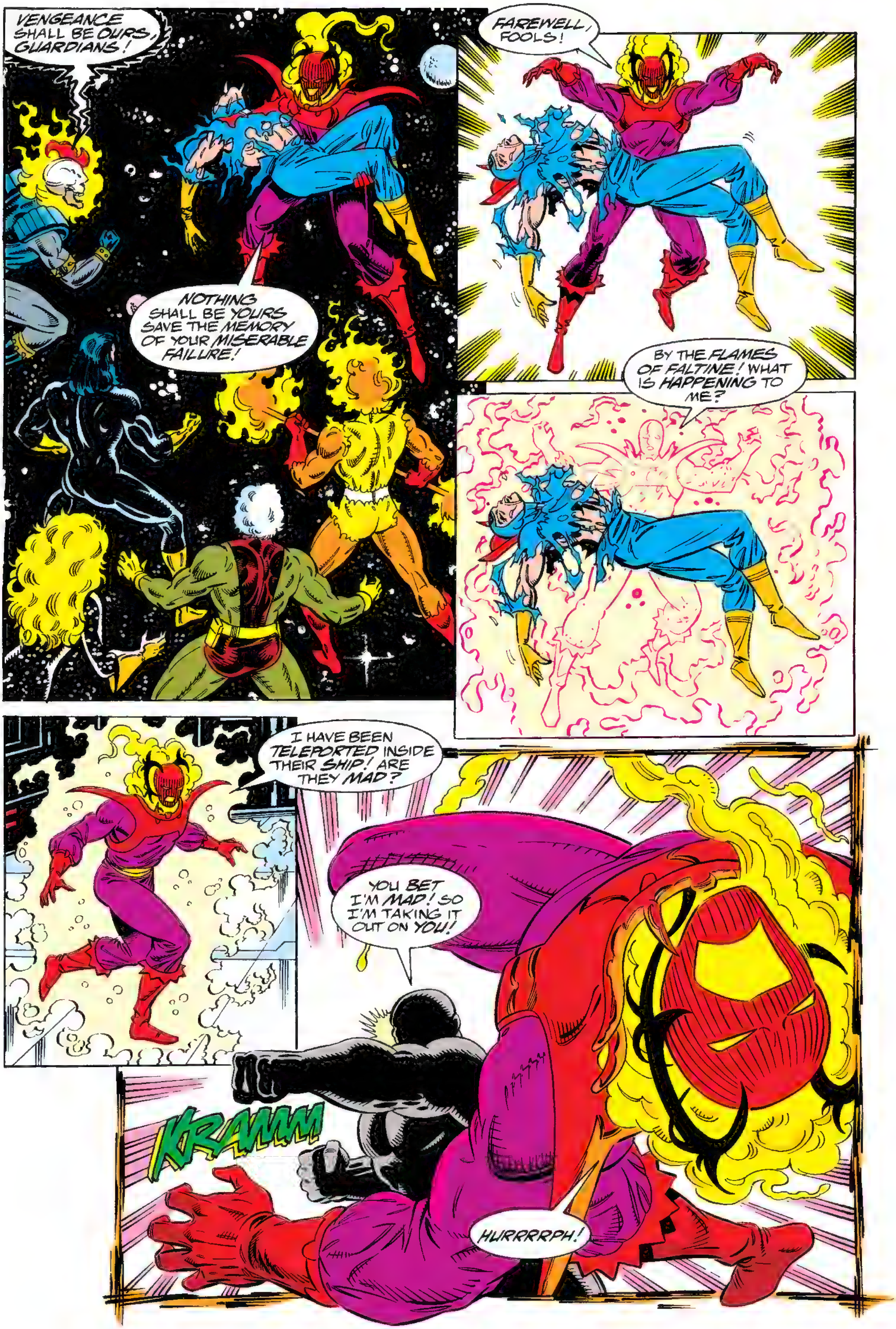
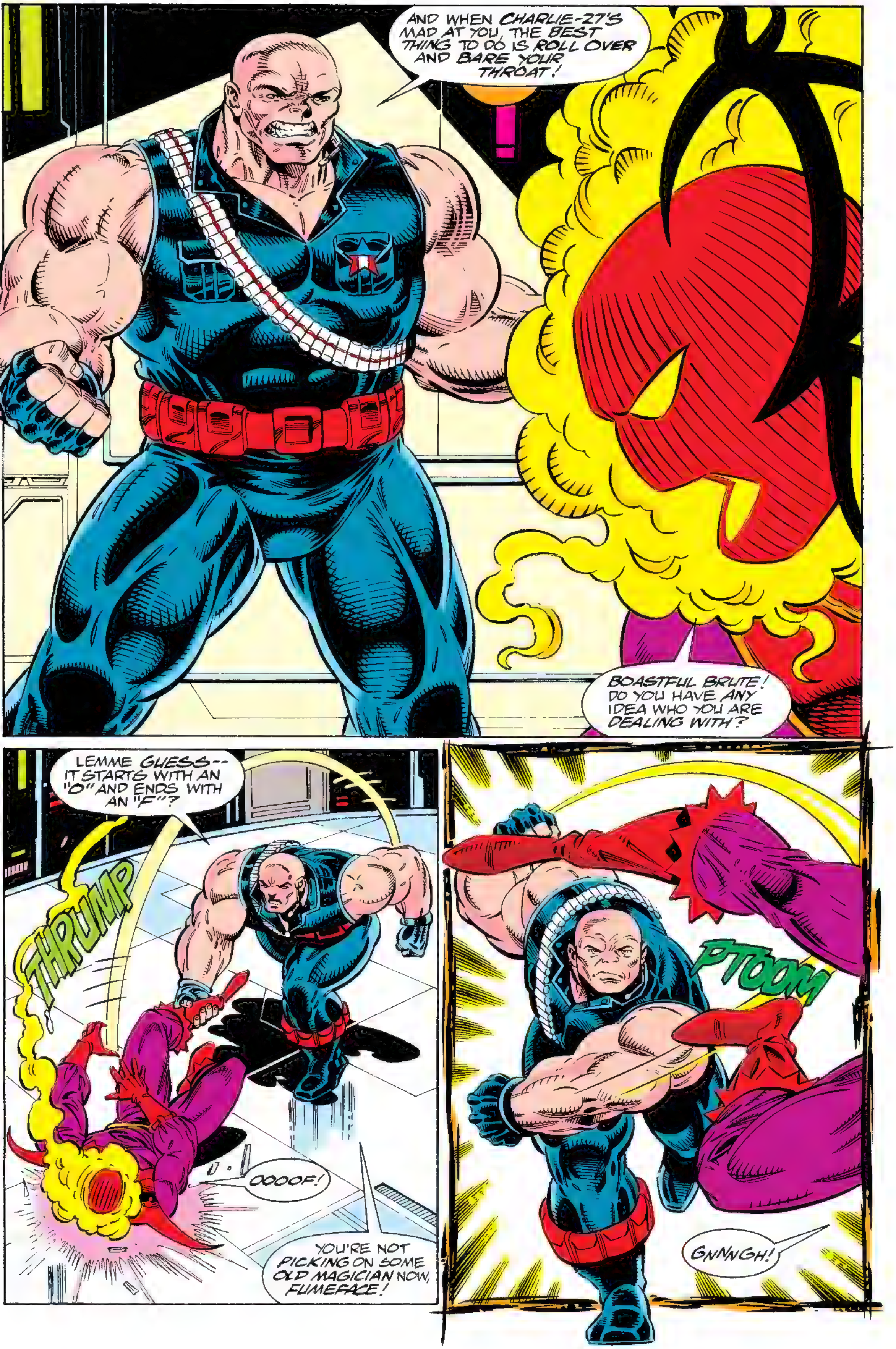
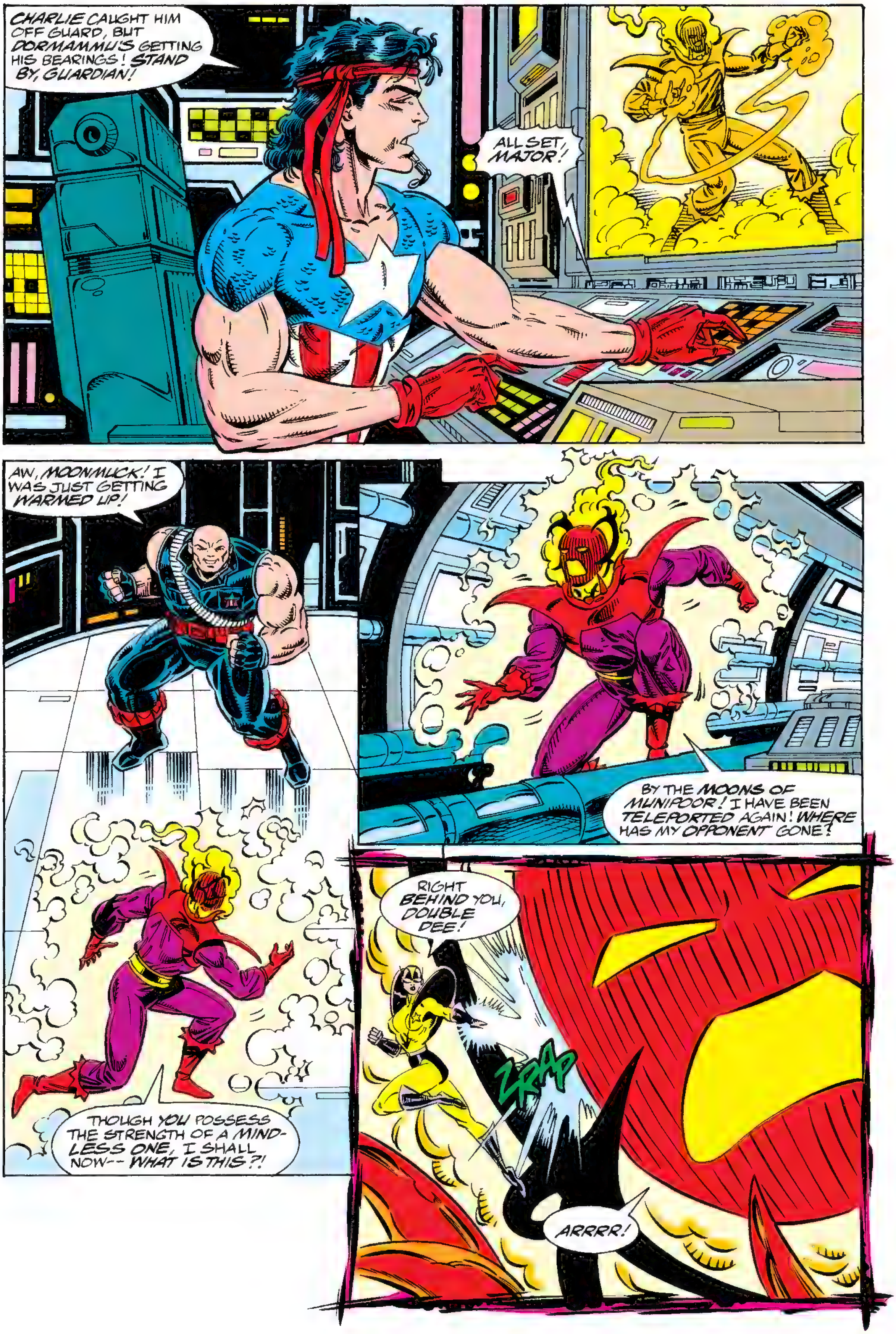
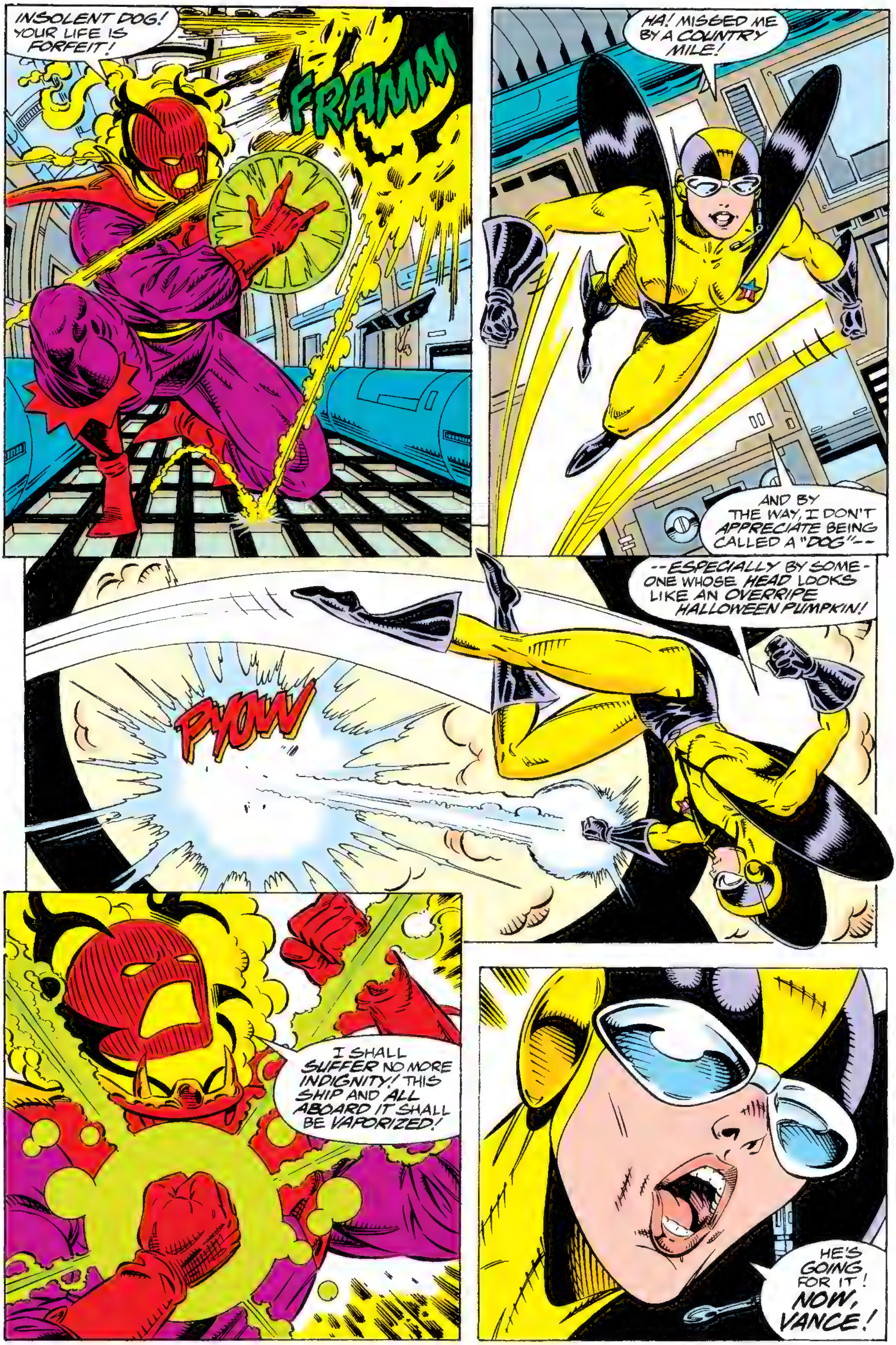
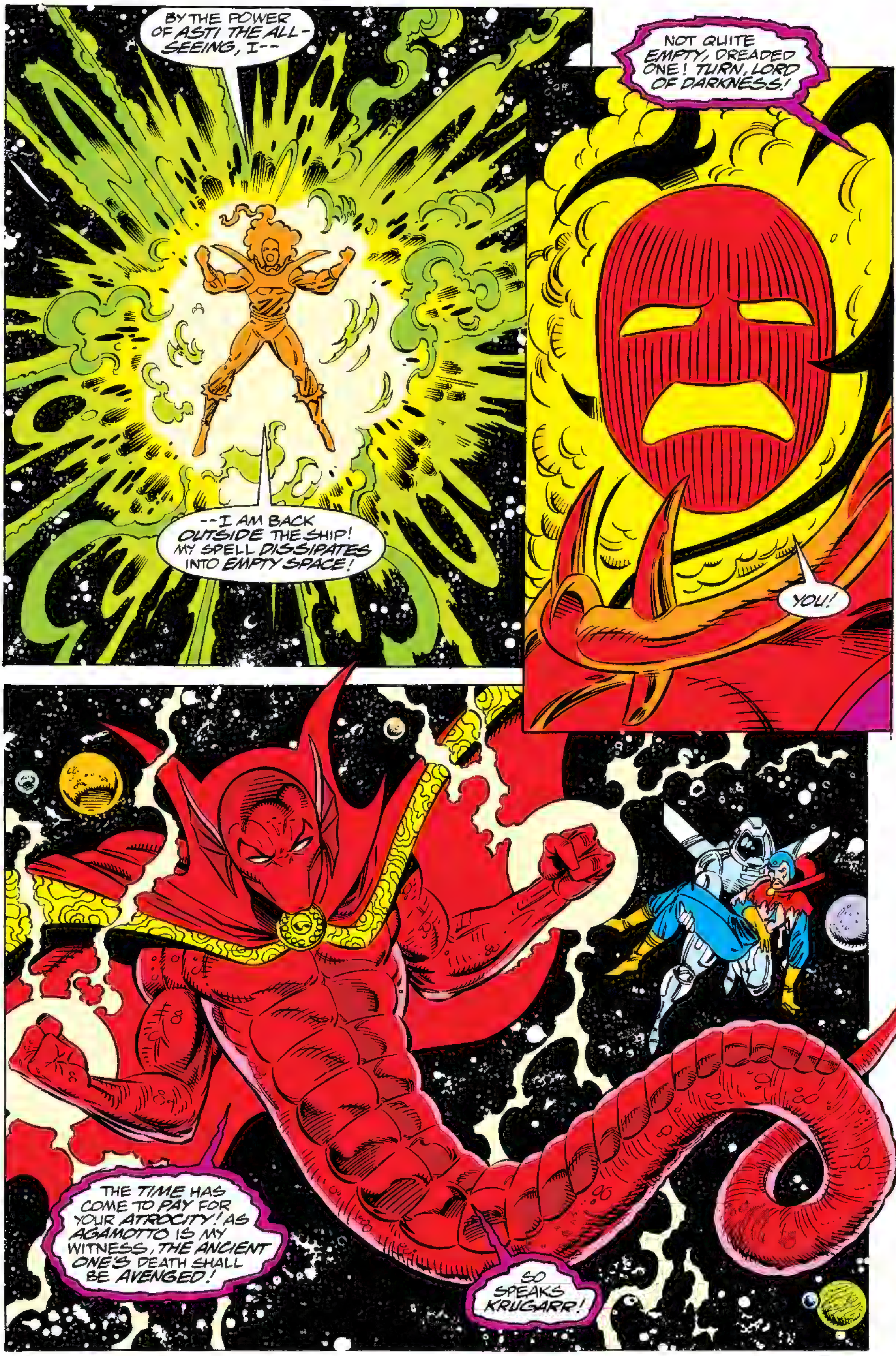

MY THANKS TO YOU GUARDIANS FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY POWER TO KILL THE AGED SORCERER!*
*LAST ISSUE.--CRAIG
MASTER KRUGARR! I CAN'T BREAK THIS SHAZANNA'S CRUCIFIX THAT DORMAMMU HAS BOUND YOU IN!
THAT IS BECAUSE YOU IGNORE YOUR OWN ABILITY, TALON!
CEASE USING BRUTE FORCE! EMPLOY YOUR LATENT MYSTIC POWER!
PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY!
ABOARD ICARUS:
IT'S SAD BUT TRUE. SENSORS SHOW THE ANCIENT ONE IS TRULY DEAD!
AND DORMAMMU WILL PAY FOR HIS MURDER!
BUT NOT THE WAY WE'VE BEEN GOING ABOUT IT SO FAR! I'VE GOT AN IDEA...

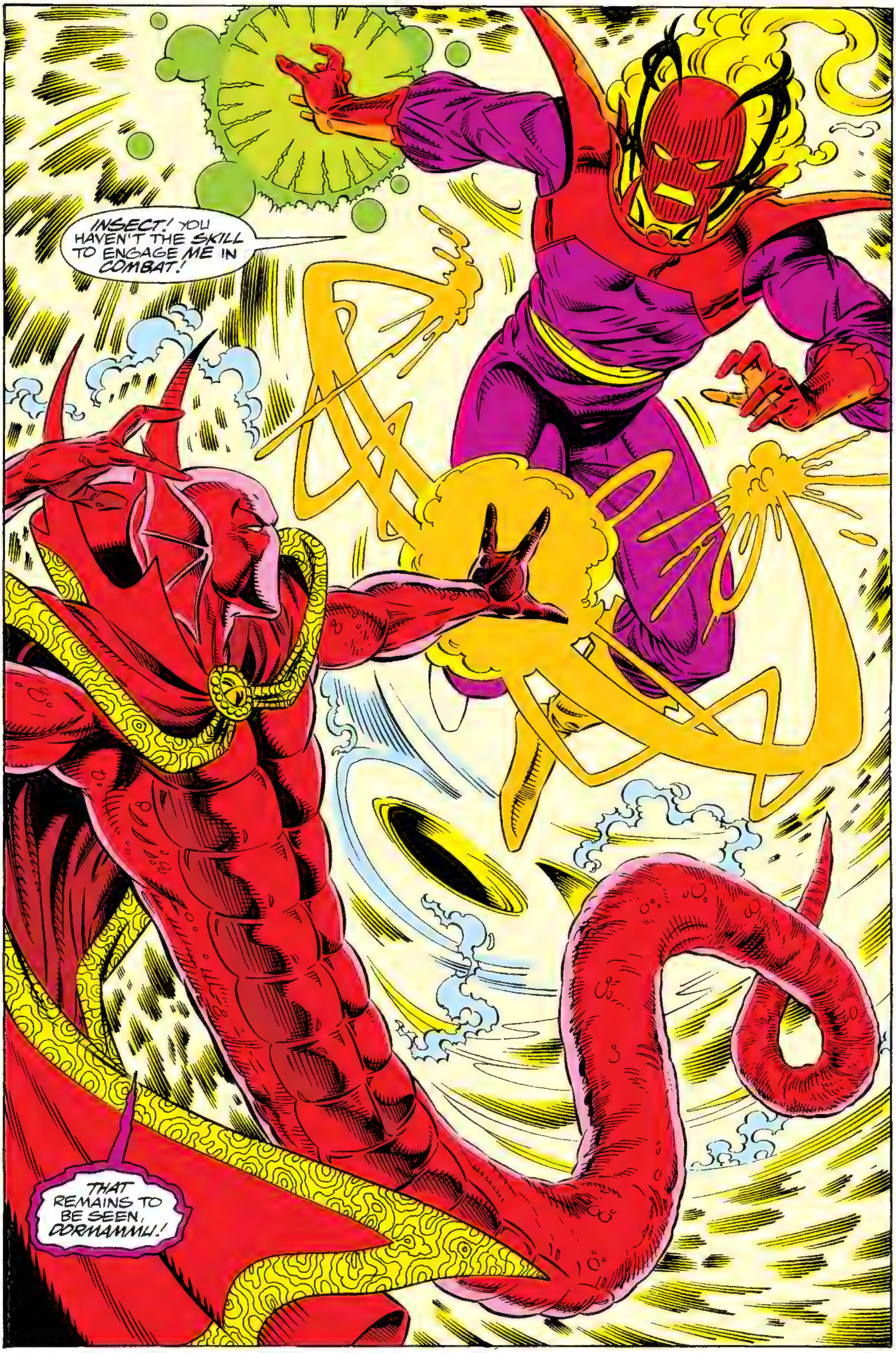

VENGEANCE SHALL BE OURS, GUARDIANS!
NOTHING SHALL BE YOURS SAVE THE MEMORY OF YOUR MISERABLE FAILURE!
FAREWELL, FOOLS!
BY THE FLAMES OF FALTINE! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?
I HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED INSIDE THEIR SHIP! ARE THEY MAD?
YOU BET I'M MAD! SO I'M TAKING IT OUT ON YOU!
KRAMM
HURRRRPH!

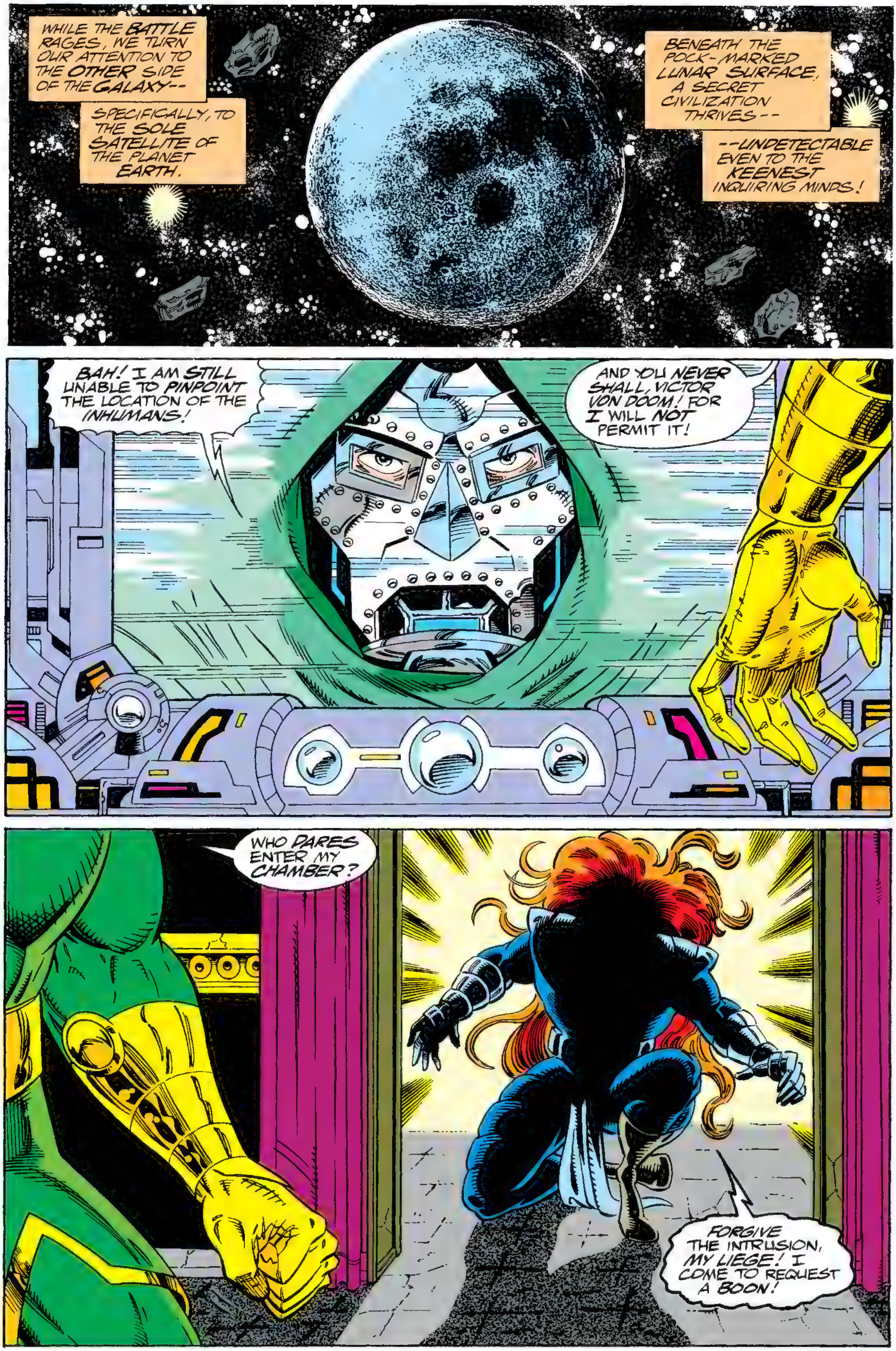

AND WHEN CHARLIE-27'S MAD AT YOU, THE BEST THING TO DO IS ROLL OVER AND BARE YOUR THROAT!
BOASTFUL BRUTE! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH?
LEMME GUESS-- IT STARTS WITH AN "O" AND ENDS WITH AN "F"?
THRUMP
OOOOF!
YOU'RE NOT PICKING ON SOME OLD MAGICIAN NOW, FUMEFACE!
PTOOM
GNNNGH!

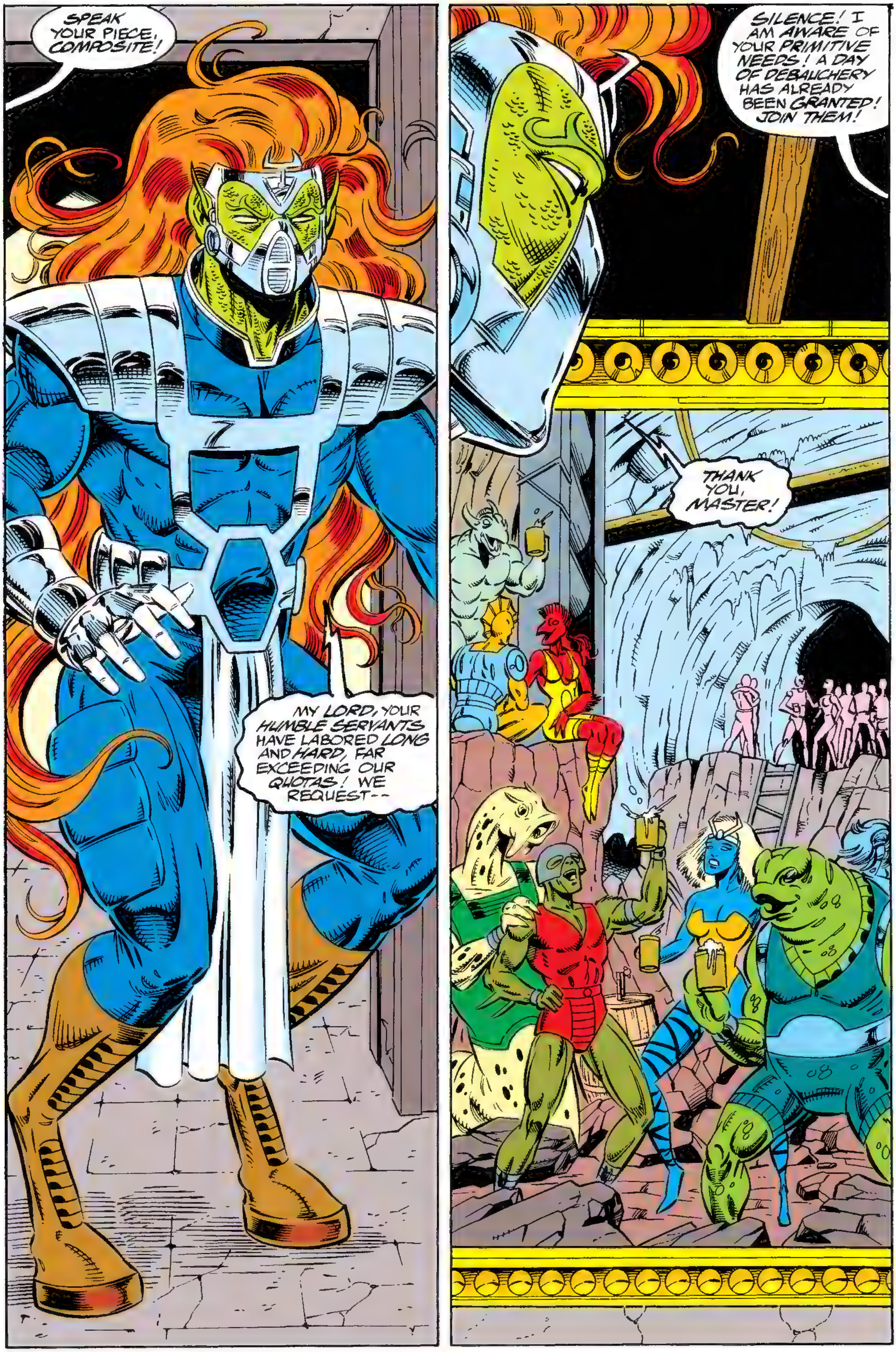

CHARLIE CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD, BUT DORMAMMU'S GETTING HIS BEARINGS! STAND BY, GUARDIAN!
ALL SET, MAJOR!
AW, MOONMUCK! I WAS JUST GETTING WARMED UP!
BY THE MOONS OF MUNIPOOR! I HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED AGAIN! WHERE HAS MY OPPONENT GONE?
THOUGH YOU POSSESS THE STRENGTH OF A MINDLESS ONE, I SHALL NOW-- WHAT IS THIS?!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, DOUBLE DEE!
ZRAP
ARRRR!

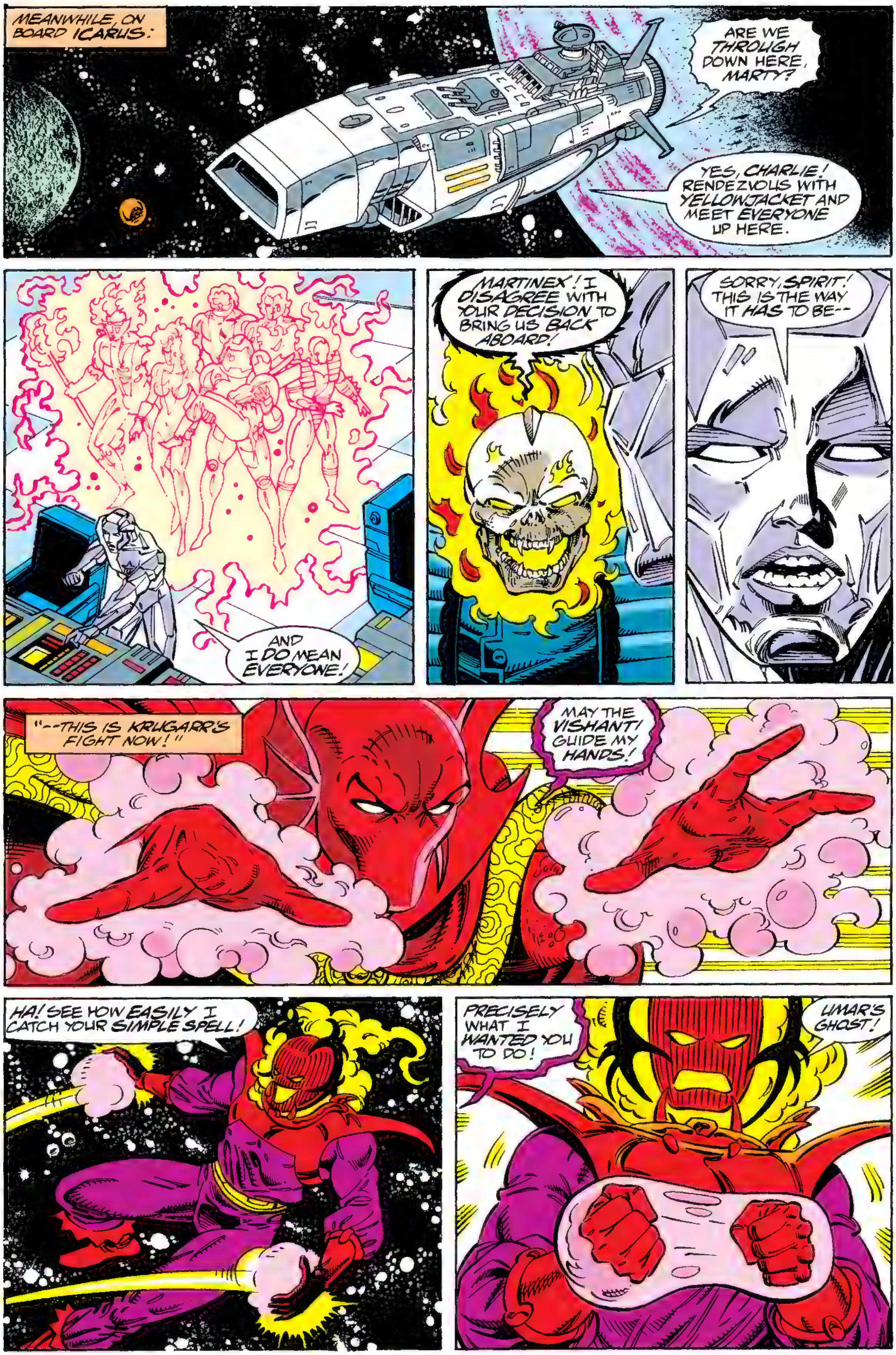

INSOLENT DOG! YOUR LIFE IS FORFEIT!
FRAMM
HA! MISSED ME BY A COUNTRY MILE!
AND BY THE WAY, I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING CALLED A "DOG"--
--ESPECIALLY BY SOMEONE WHOSE HEAD LOOKS LIKE AN OVERRIPE HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN!
PYOW
I SHALL SUFFER NO MORE INDIGNITY! THIS SHIP AND ALL ABOARD IT SHALL BE VAPORIZED!
HE'S GOING FOR IT! NOW, VANCE!

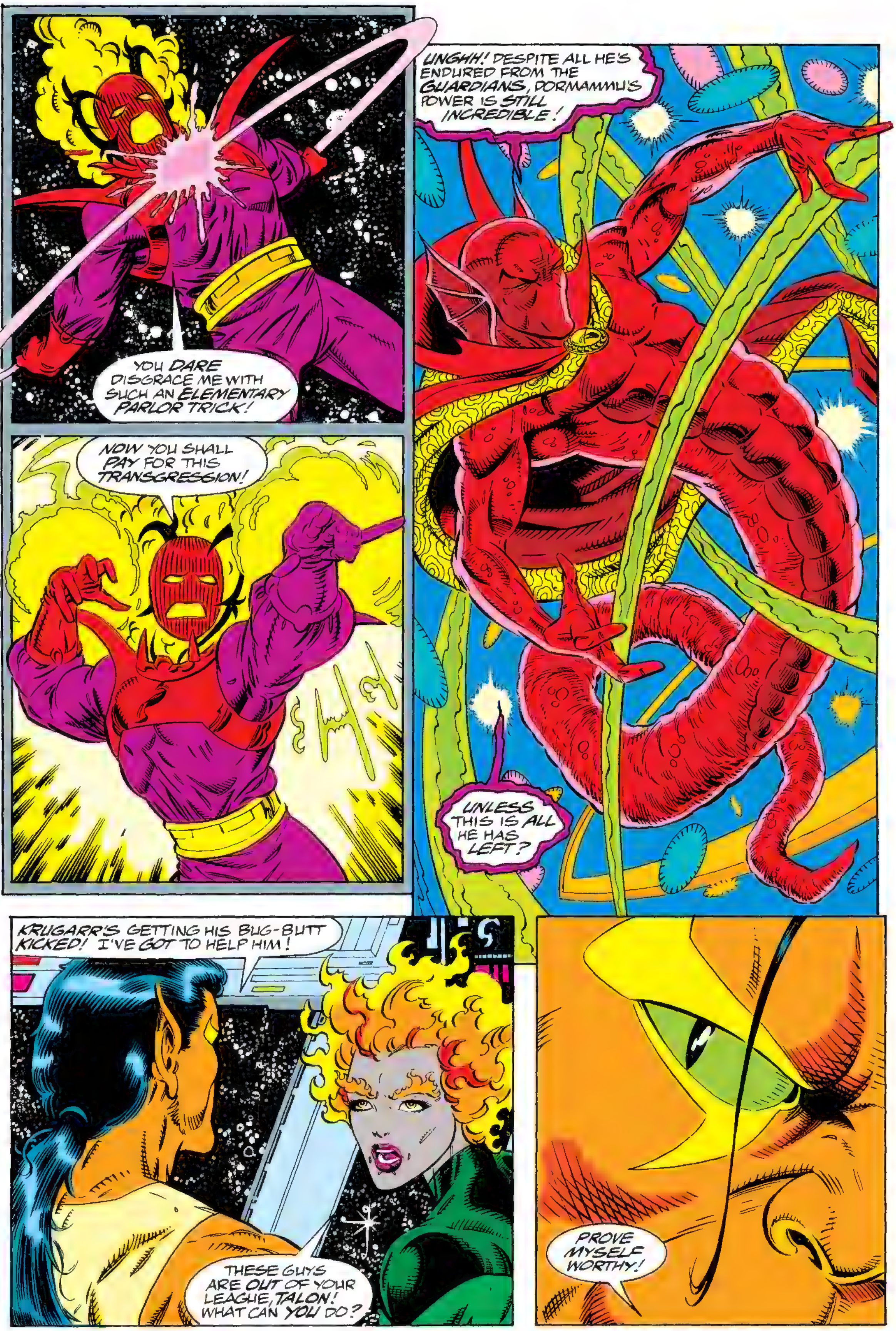

BY THE POWER OF *ASTI THE ALL-SEEING*, I--
--I AM BACK *OUTSIDE* THE SHIP! MY SPELL *DISSIPATES* INTO *EMPTY SPACE!*
NOT QUITE *EMPTY*, DREADED ONE! *TURN, LORD OF DARKNESS!*
YOU!
THE *TIME* HAS COME TO *PAY* FOR YOUR *ATROCITY!* AS *AGAMOTTO* IS MY WITNESS, *THE ANCIENT ONE'S* DEATH SHALL BE *AVENGED!*
SO SPEAKS *KRUGARR!*

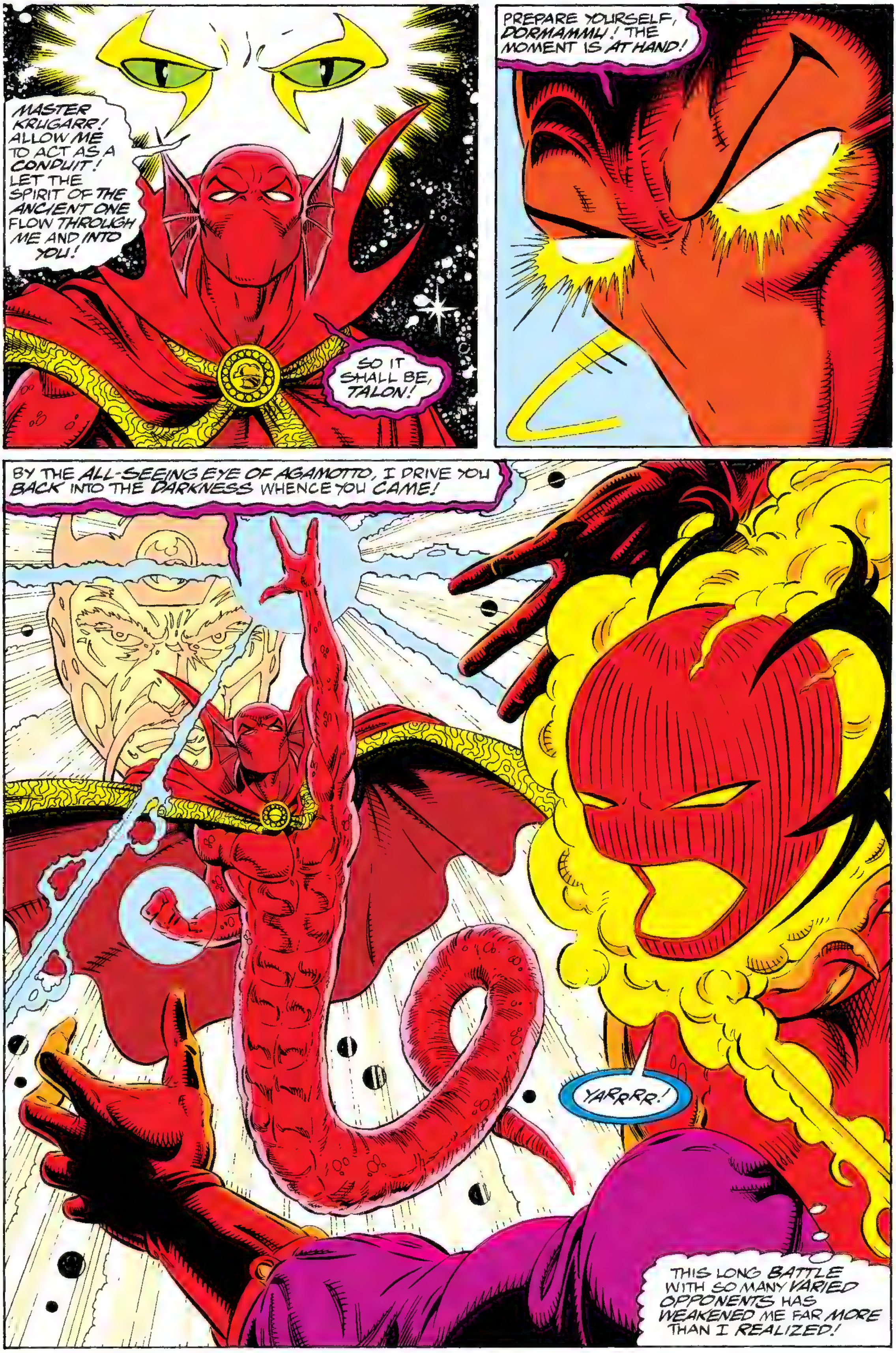

INSECT! YOU HAVEN'T THE SKILL TO ENGAGE ME IN COMBAT!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, DORMAMMU!

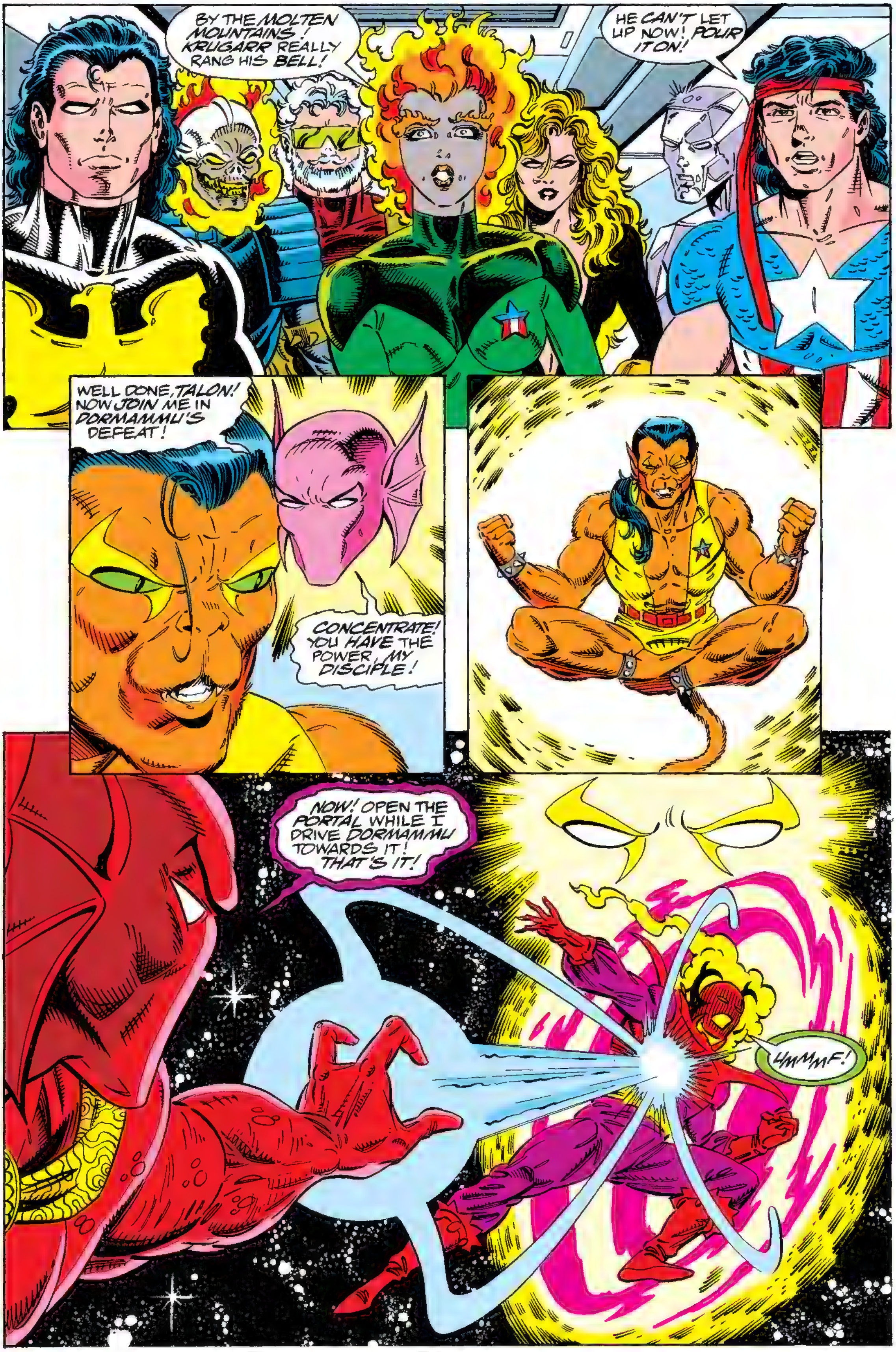

WHILE THE BATTLE RAGES, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY--
SPECIFICALLY, TO THE SOLE SATELLITE OF THE PLANET EARTH.
BENEATH THE POCK-MARKED LUNAR SURFACE, A SECRET CIVILIZATION THRIVES--
--UNDETECTABLE EVEN TO THE KEENEST INQUIRING MINDS!
BAH! I AM STILL UNABLE TO PINPOINT THE LOCATION OF THE INHUMANS!
AND YOU NEVER SHALL, VICTOR VON DOOM! FOR I WILL NOT PERMIT IT!
WHO DARES ENTER MY CHAMBER?
FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, MY LIEGE! I COME TO REQUEST A BOON!

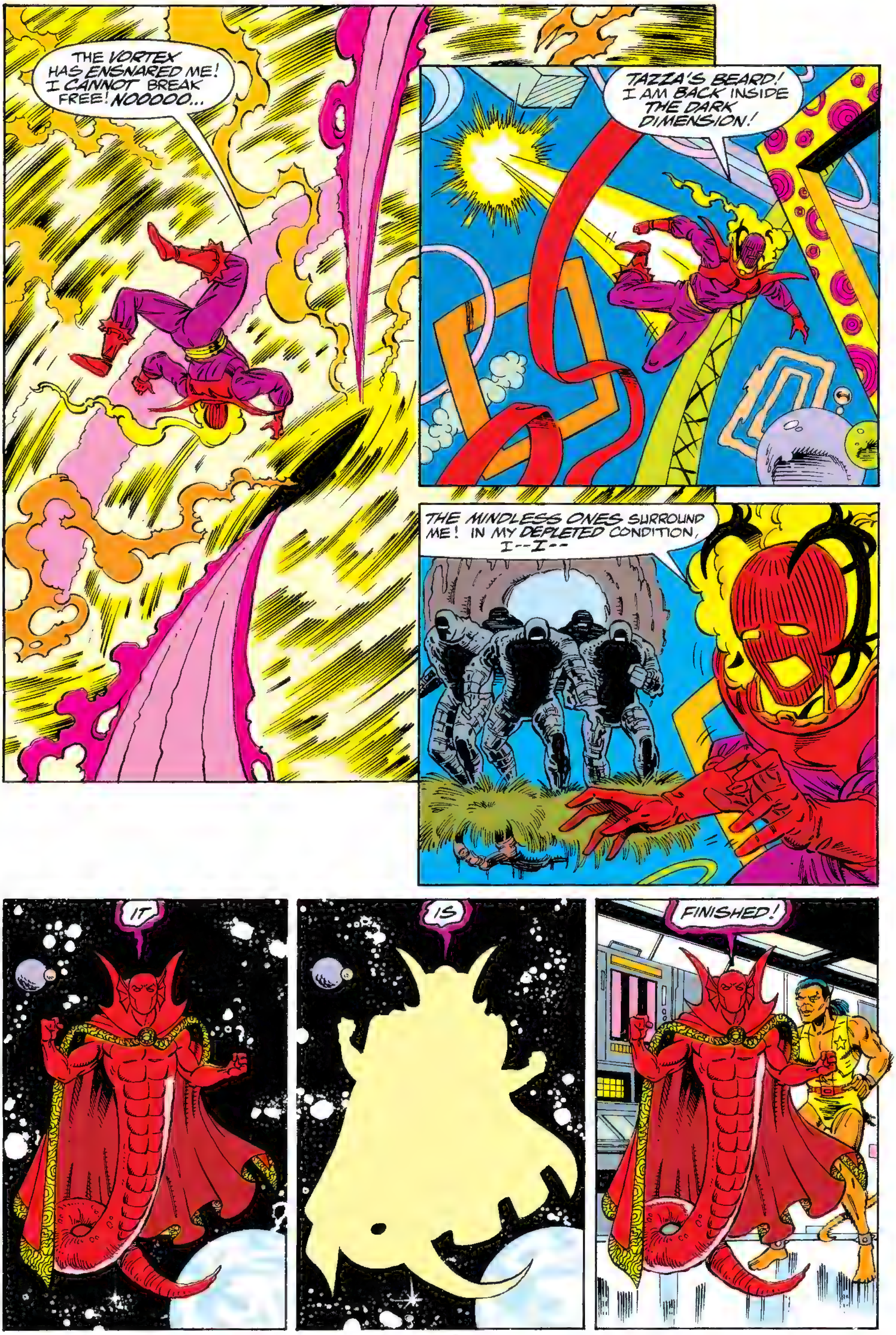

SPEAK YOUR PIECE, COMPOSITE!
MY LORD, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANTS HAVE LABORED LONG AND HARD, FAR EXCEEDING OUR QUOTAS! WE REQUEST--
SILENCE! I AM AWARE OF YOUR PRIMITIVE NEEDS! A DAY OF DEBAUCHERY HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED! JOIN THEM!
THANK YOU, MASTER!

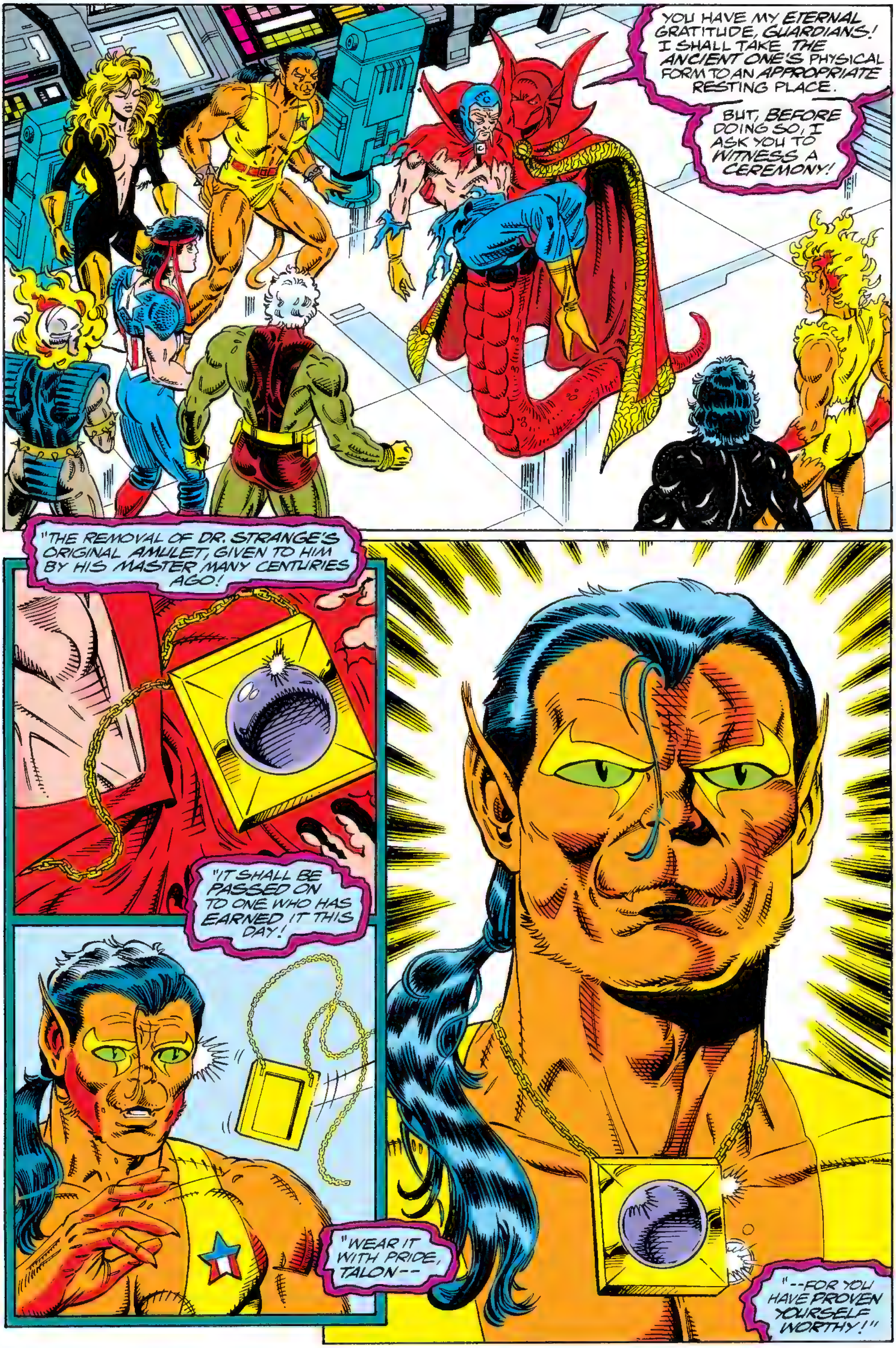

MEANWHILE, ON BOARD ICARUS:
ARE WE THROUGH DOWN HERE, MARTY?
YES, CHARLIE! RENDEZVOUS WITH YELLOWJACKET AND MEET EVERYONE UP HERE.
AND I DO MEAN EVERYONE!
MARTINEX! I DISAGREE WITH YOUR DECISION TO BRING US BACK ABOARD!
SORRY, SPIRIT! THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS TO BE--
"--THIS IS KRUGARR'S FIGHT NOW!"
MAY THE VISHANTI GUIDE MY HANDS!
HA! SEE HOW EASILY I CATCH YOUR SIMPLE SPELL!
PRECISELY WHAT I WANTED YOU TO DO!
UMAR'S GHOST!

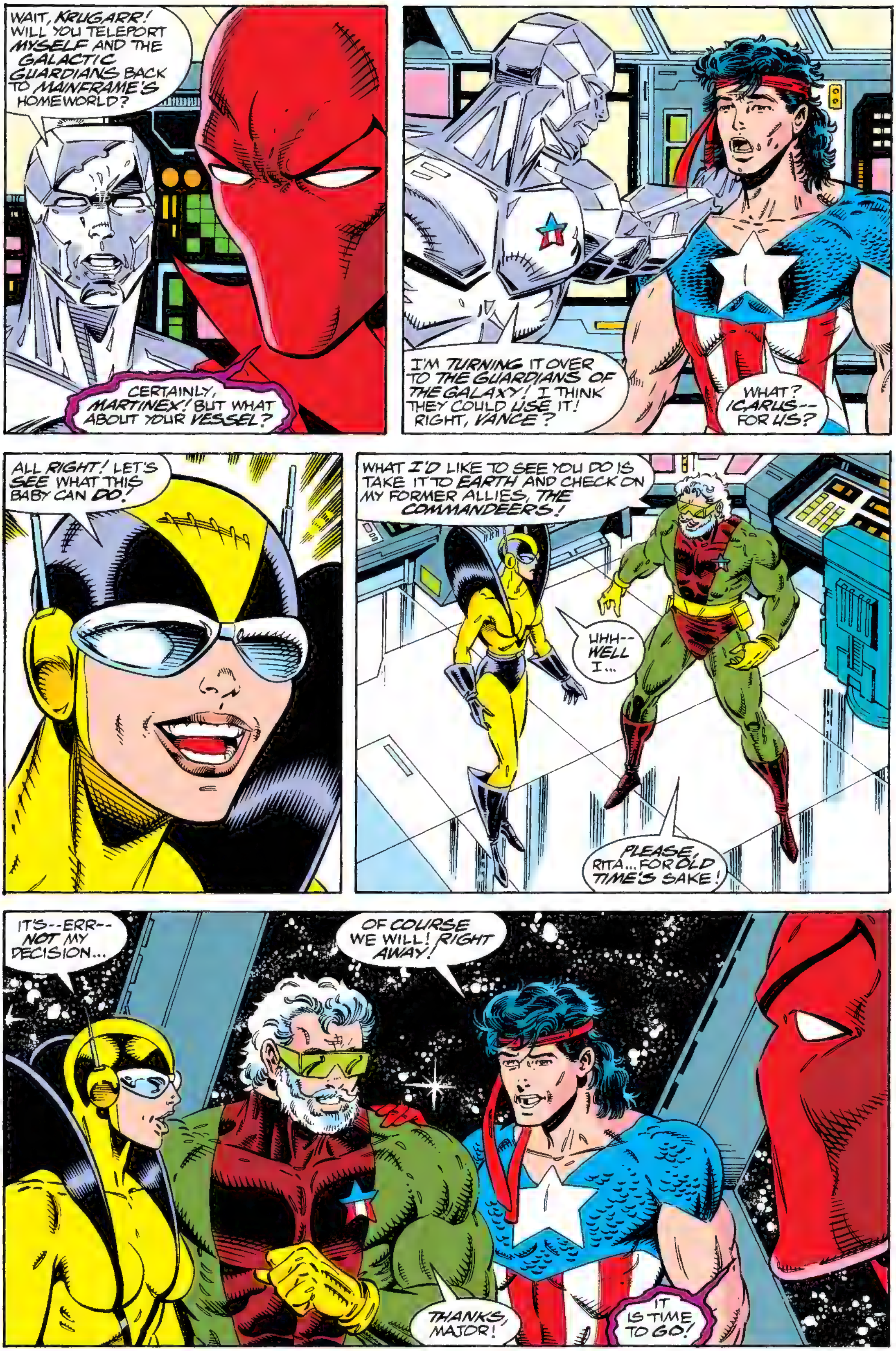

YOU DARE DISGRACE ME WITH SUCH AN ELEMENTARY PARLOR TRICK!
NOW YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS TRANSGRESSION!
UNGHH! DESPITE ALL HE'S ENDURED FROM THE GUARDIANS, DORMAMMU'S POWER IS STILL INCREDIBLE!
UNLESS THIS IS ALL HE HAS LEFT?
KRUGARR'S GETTING HIS BUG-BUTT KICKED! I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!
THESE GUYS ARE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, TALON! WHAT CAN YOU DO?
PROVE MYSELF WORTHY!

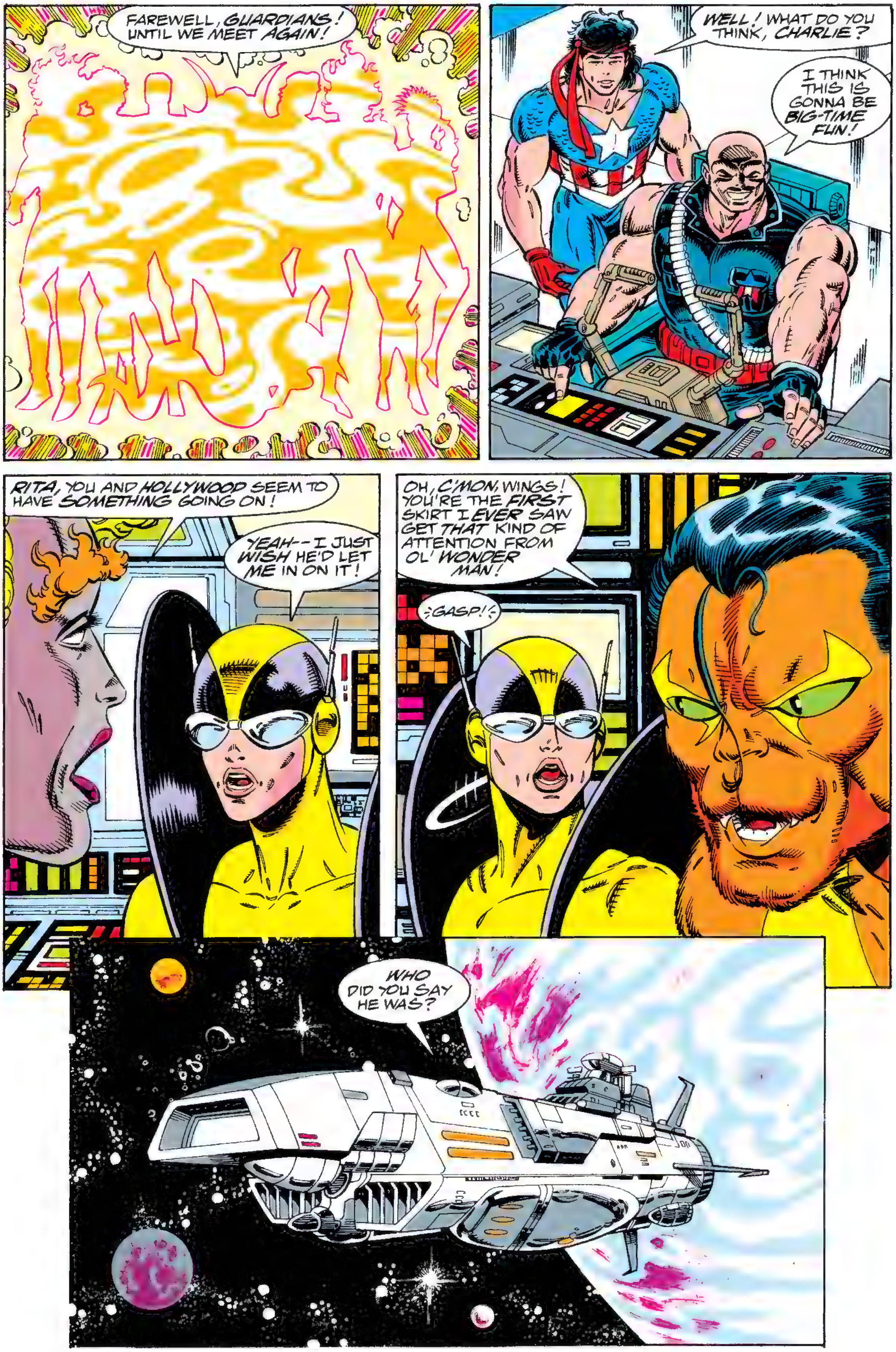

MASTER KRUGARR! ALLOW ME TO ACT AS A CONDUIT! LET THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCIENT ONE FLOW THROUGH ME AND INTO YOU!
SO IT SHALL BE, TALON!
PREPARE YOURSELF, DORMAMMU! THE MOMENT IS AT HAND!
BY THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO, I DRIVE YOU BACK INTO THE DARKNESS WHENCE YOU CAME!
YARRRR!
THIS LONG BATTLE WITH SO MANY VARIED OPPONENTS HAS WEAKENED ME FAR MORE THAN I REALIZED!

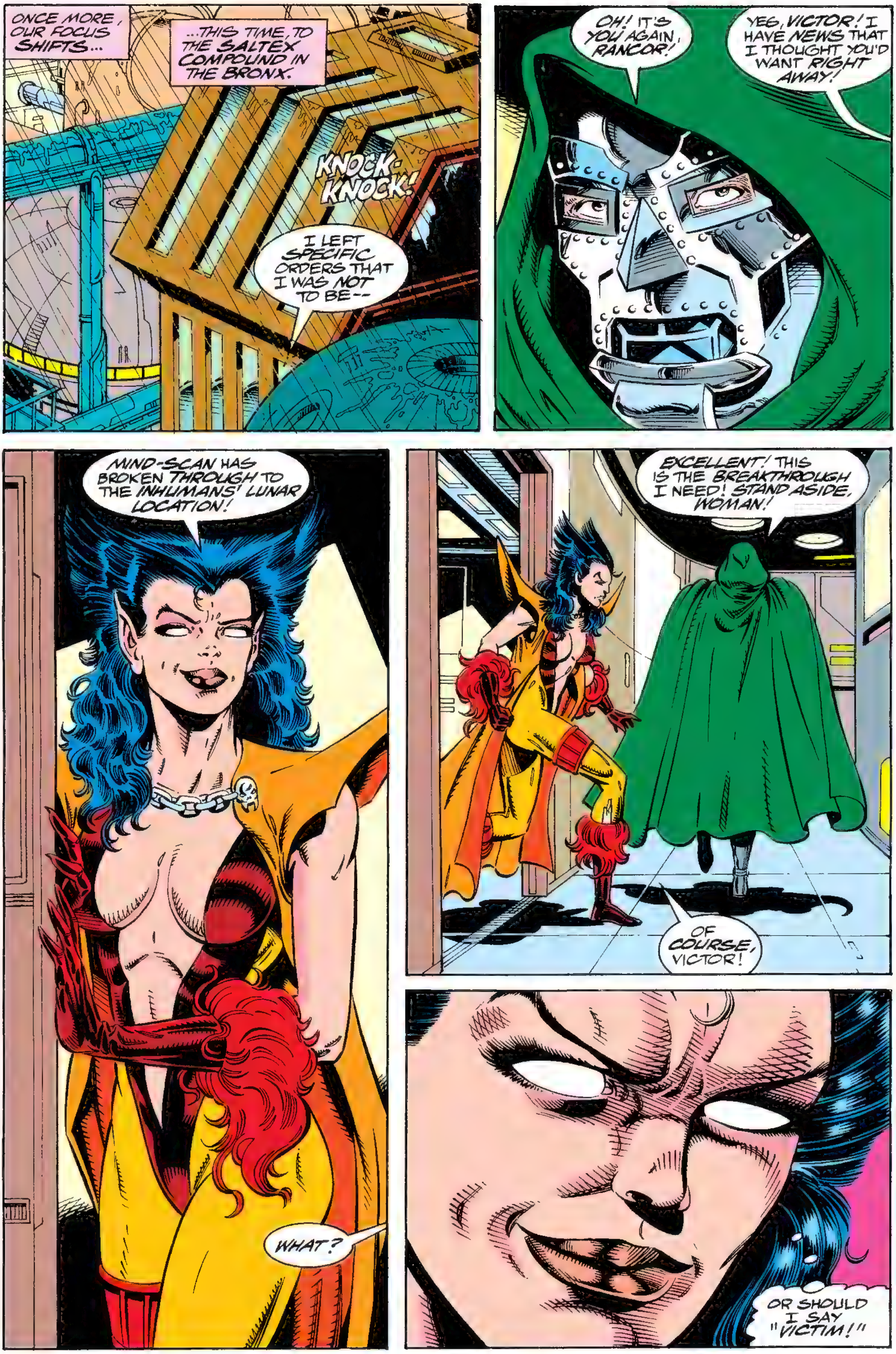

BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS! KRUGARR REALLY RANG HIS BELL!
HE CAN'T LET UP NOW! POUR IT ON!
WELL DONE, TALON! NOW JOIN ME IN DORMAMMU'S DEFEAT!
CONCENTRATE! YOU HAVE THE POWER, MY DISCIPLE!
NOW! OPEN THE PORTAL WHILE I DRIVE DORMAMMU TOWARDS IT! THAT'S IT!
UMMMF!

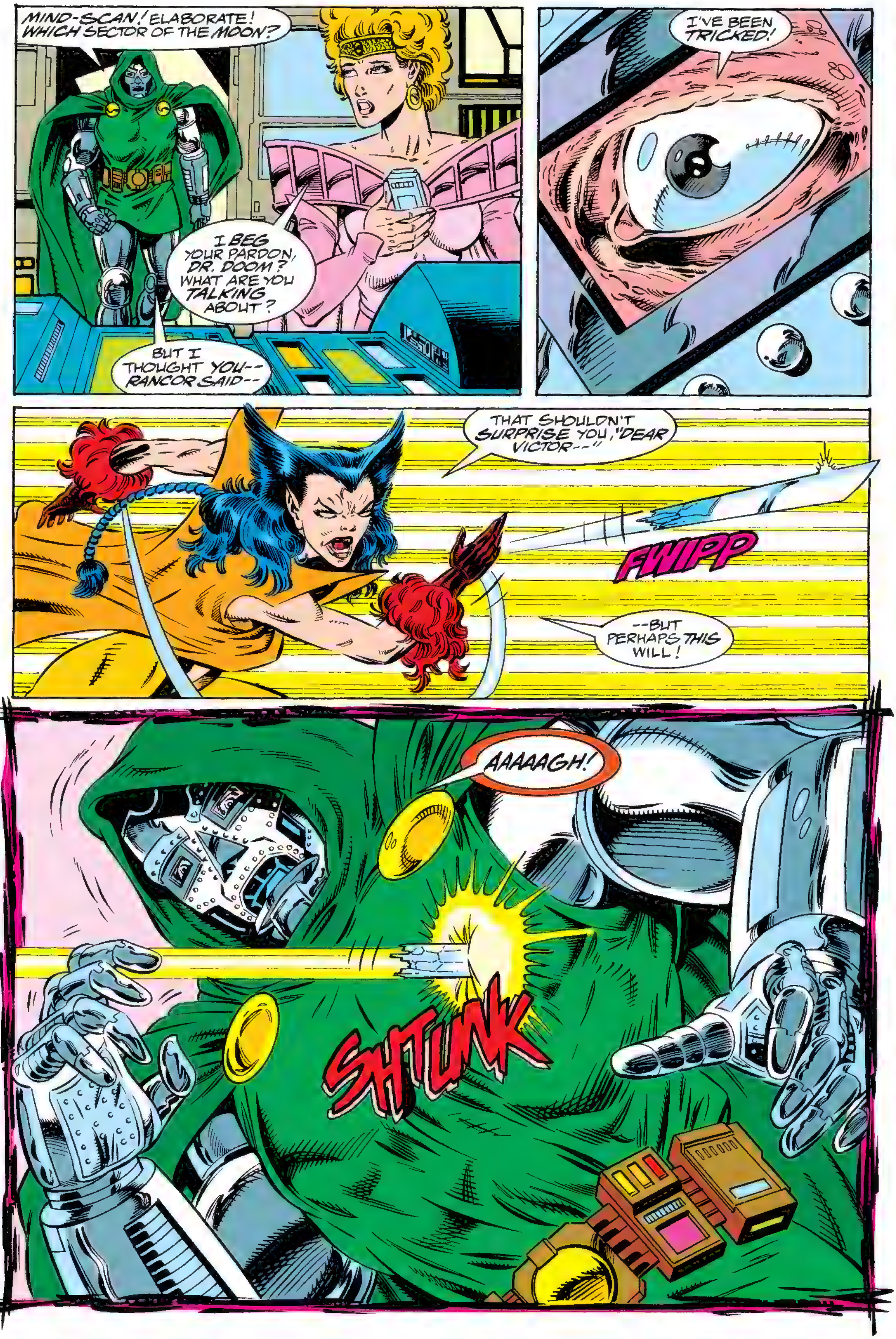

THE *VORTEX* HAS *ENSNARED* ME! I *CANNOT* BREAK FREE! *NOOOOO...*
TAZZA'S BEARD! I AM *BACK* INSIDE *THE DARK DIMENSION!*
THE MINDLESS ONES SURROUND ME! IN MY *DEPLETED* CONDITION, I--I--
IT
IS
FINISHED!

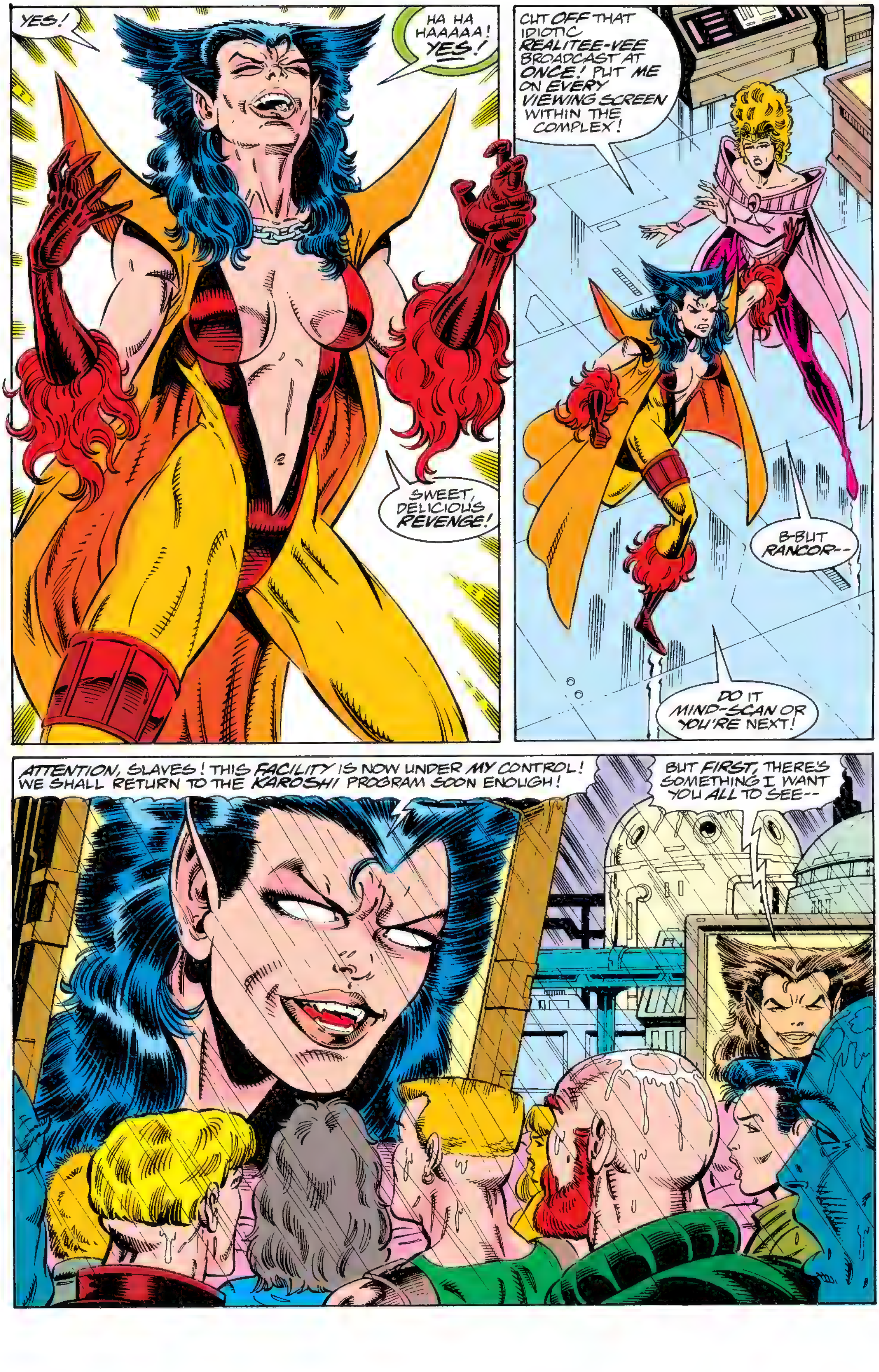

YOU HAVE MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE, GUARDIANS! I SHALL TAKE THE ANCIENT ONE'S PHYSICAL FORM TO AN APPROPRIATE RESTING PLACE.
BUT, BEFORE DOING SO, I ASK YOU TO WITNESS A CEREMONY!
"THE REMOVAL OF DR. STRANGE'S ORIGINAL AMULET, GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS MASTER MANY CENTURIES AGO!
"IT SHALL BE PASSED ON TO ONE WHO HAS EARNED IT THIS DAY!
"WEAR IT WITH PRIDE, TALON--
"--FOR YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF WORTHY!"

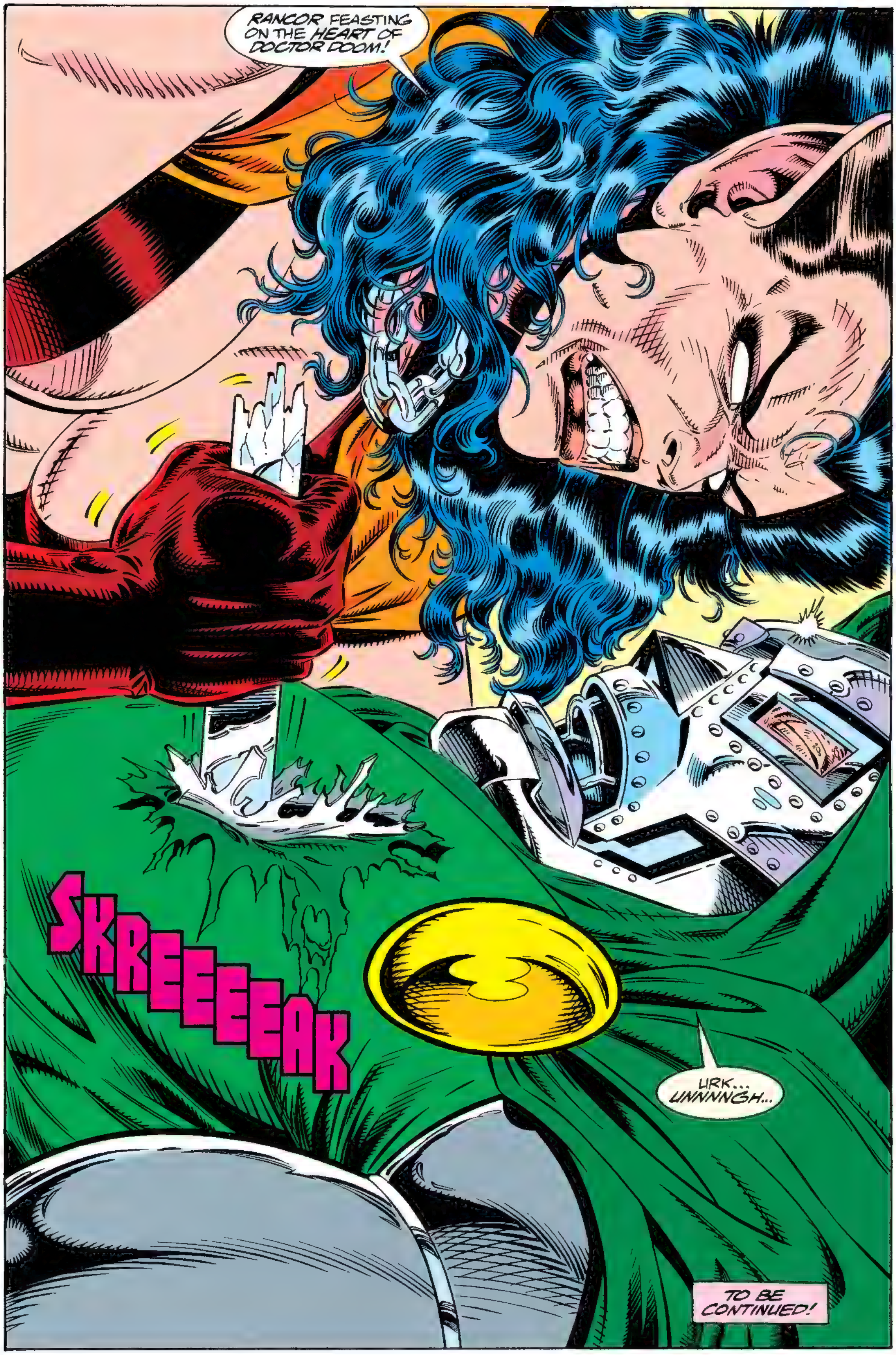

WAIT, KRUGARR! WILL YOU TELEPORT MYSELF AND THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS BACK TO MAINFRAME'S HOMEWORLD?
CERTAINLY, MARTINEX! BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR VESSEL?
I'M TURNING IT OVER TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! I THINK THEY COULD USE IT! RIGHT, VANCE?
WHAT? ICARUS--FOR US?
ALL RIGHT! LET'S SEE WHAT THIS BABY CAN DO!
WHAT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU DO IS TAKE IT TO EARTH AND CHECK ON MY FORMER ALLIES, THE COMMANDEERS!
UHH--WELL I...
PLEASE, RITA...FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE!
IT'S--ERR--NOT MY DECISION...
OF COURSE WE WILL! RIGHT AWAY!
THANKS, MAJOR!
IT IS TIME TO GO!


FAREWELL, GUARDIANS! UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!
WELL! WHAT DO YOU THINK, CHARLIE?
I THINK THIS IS GONNA BE BIG-TIME FUN!
RITA, YOU AND HOLLYWOOD SEEM TO HAVE SOMETHING GOING ON!
YEAH-- I JUST WISH HE'D LET ME IN ON IT!
OH, C'MON, WINGS! YOU'RE THE FIRST SKIRT I EVER SAW GET THAT KIND OF ATTENTION FROM OL' WONDER MAN!
GASP!
WHO DID YOU SAY HE WAS?


ONCE MORE, OUR FOCUS SHIFTS...
...THIS TIME, TO THE SALTEX COMPOUND IN THE BRONX.
KNOCK-KNOCK!
I LEFT SPECIFIC ORDERS THAT I WAS NOT TO BE--
OH! IT'S YOU AGAIN, RANCOR!
YES, VICTOR! I HAVE NEWS THAT I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT RIGHT AWAY!
MIND-SCAN HAS BROKEN THROUGH TO THE INHUMANS' LUNAR LOCATION!
EXCELLENT! THIS IS THE BREAKTHROUGH I NEED! STAND ASIDE, WOMAN!
OF COURSE, VICTOR!
WHAT?
OR SHOULD I SAY "VICTIM!"


MIND-SCAN! ELABORATE! WHICH SECTOR OF THE MOON?
I BEG YOUR PARDON, DR. DOOM? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU-- RANCOR SAID--
I'VE BEEN TRICKED!
THAT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE YOU, "DEAR VICTOR--"
FWIPP
--BUT PERHAPS THIS WILL!
AAAAAGH!
SHTUNK


YES!
HA HA HAAAAAA! YES!
SWEET, DELICIOUS REVENGE!
CUT OFF THAT IDIOTIC REALITEE-VEE BROADCAST AT ONCE! PUT ME ON EVERY VIEWING SCREEN WITHIN THE COMPLEX!
B-BUT RANCOR--
DO IT MIND-SCAN OR YOU'RE NEXT!
ATTENTION, SLAVES! THIS FACILITY IS NOW UNDER MY CONTROL! WE SHALL RETURN TO THE KAROSHI PROGRAM SOON ENOUGH!
BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU ALL TO SEE--


RANCOR FEASTING ON THE *HEART* OF DOCTOR DOOM!
SKREEEEEAK
URK... UNNNNGH...
TO BE CONTINUED!

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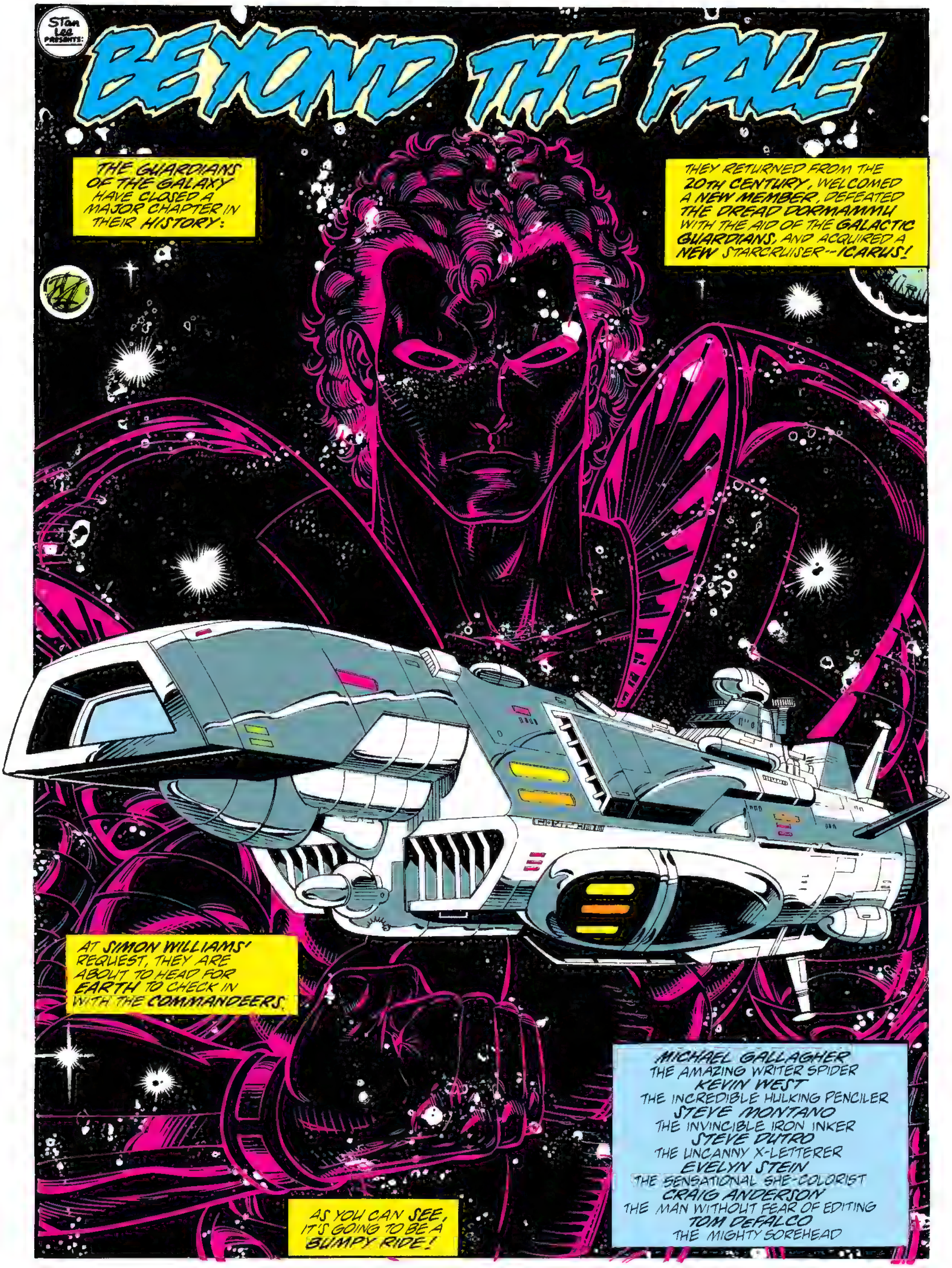
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
BEYOND THE PALE
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HAVE CLOSED A MAJOR CHAPTER IN THEIR HISTORY:
THEY RETURNED FROM THE 20TH CENTURY, WELCOMED A NEW MEMBER, DEFEATED THE DREAD DORMAMMU WITH THE AID OF THE GALACTIC GUARDIANS, AND ACQUIRED A NEW STARCRUISER--ICARUS!
AT SIMON WILLIAMS' REQUEST, THEY ARE ABOUT TO HEAD FOR EARTH TO CHECK IN WITH THE COMMANDEERS.
MICHAEL GALLAGHER THE AMAZING WRITER SPIDER
KEVIN WEST THE INCREDIBLE HULKING PENCILER
STEVE MONTANO THE INVINCIBLE IRON INKER
STEVE DUTRO THE UNCANNY X-LETTERER
EVELYN STEIN THE SENSATIONAL SHE-COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR OF EDITING
TOM DEFALCO THE MIGHTY SOREHEAD
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S GOING TO BE A BUMPY RIDE!

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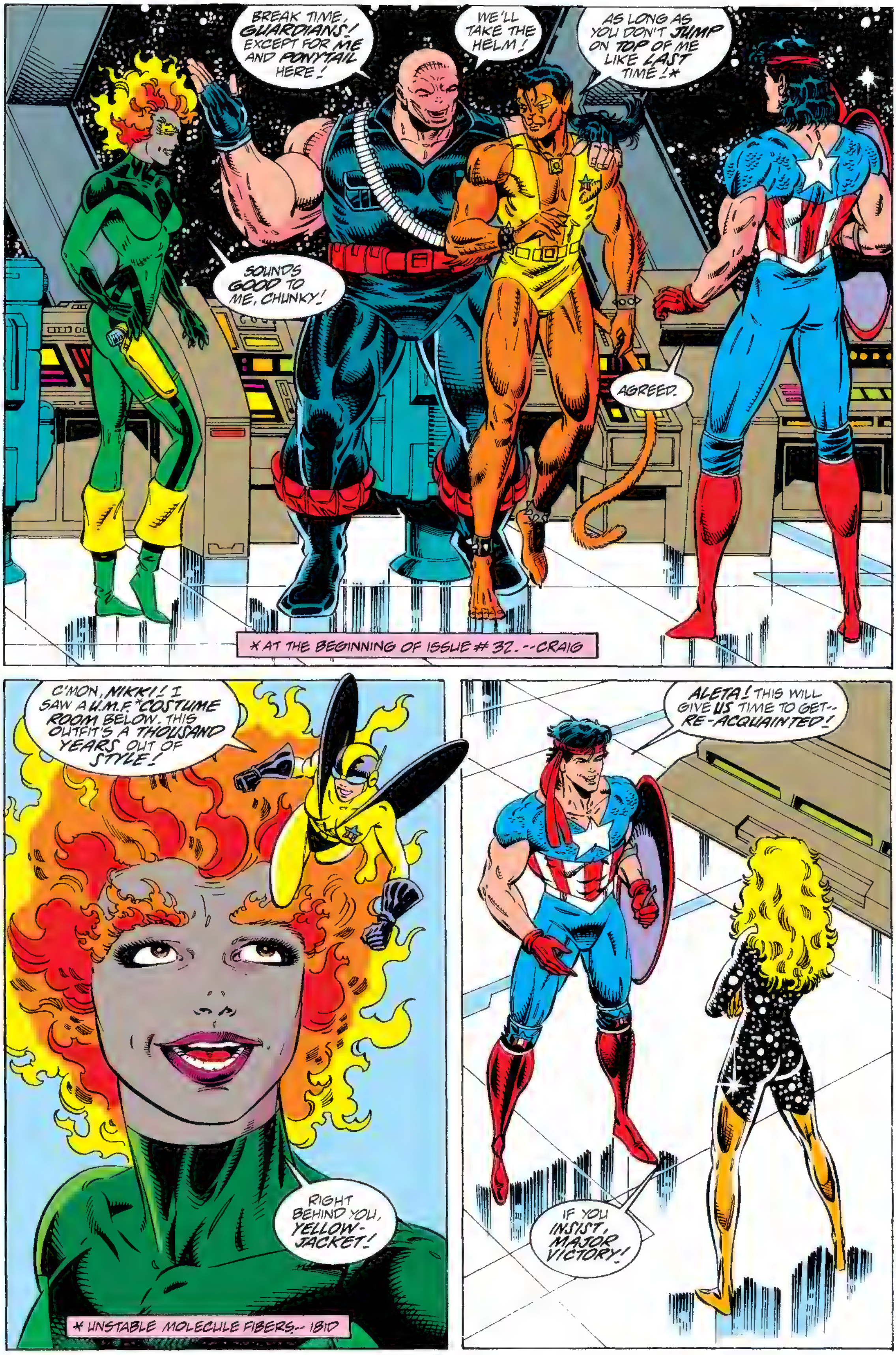
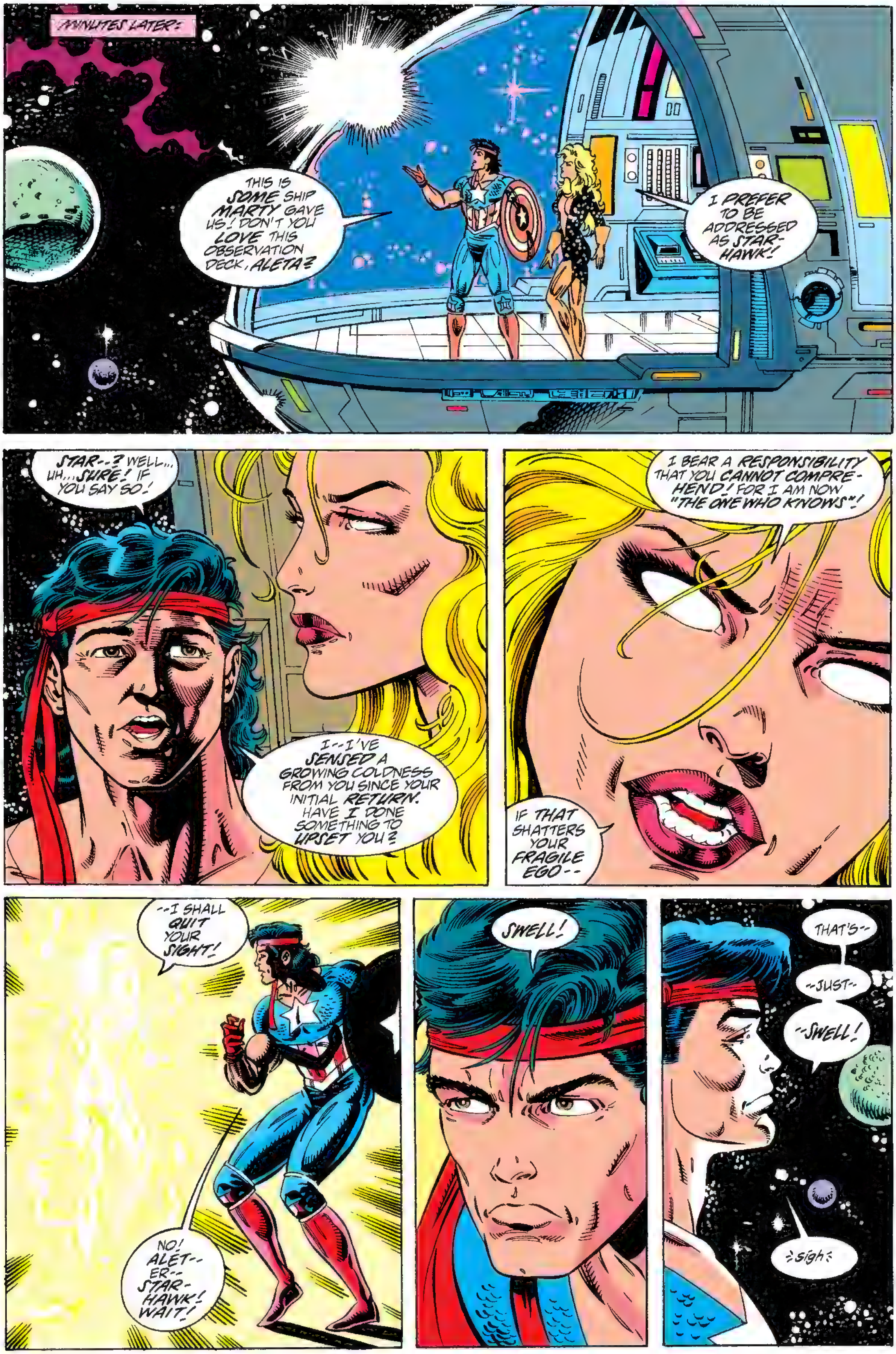
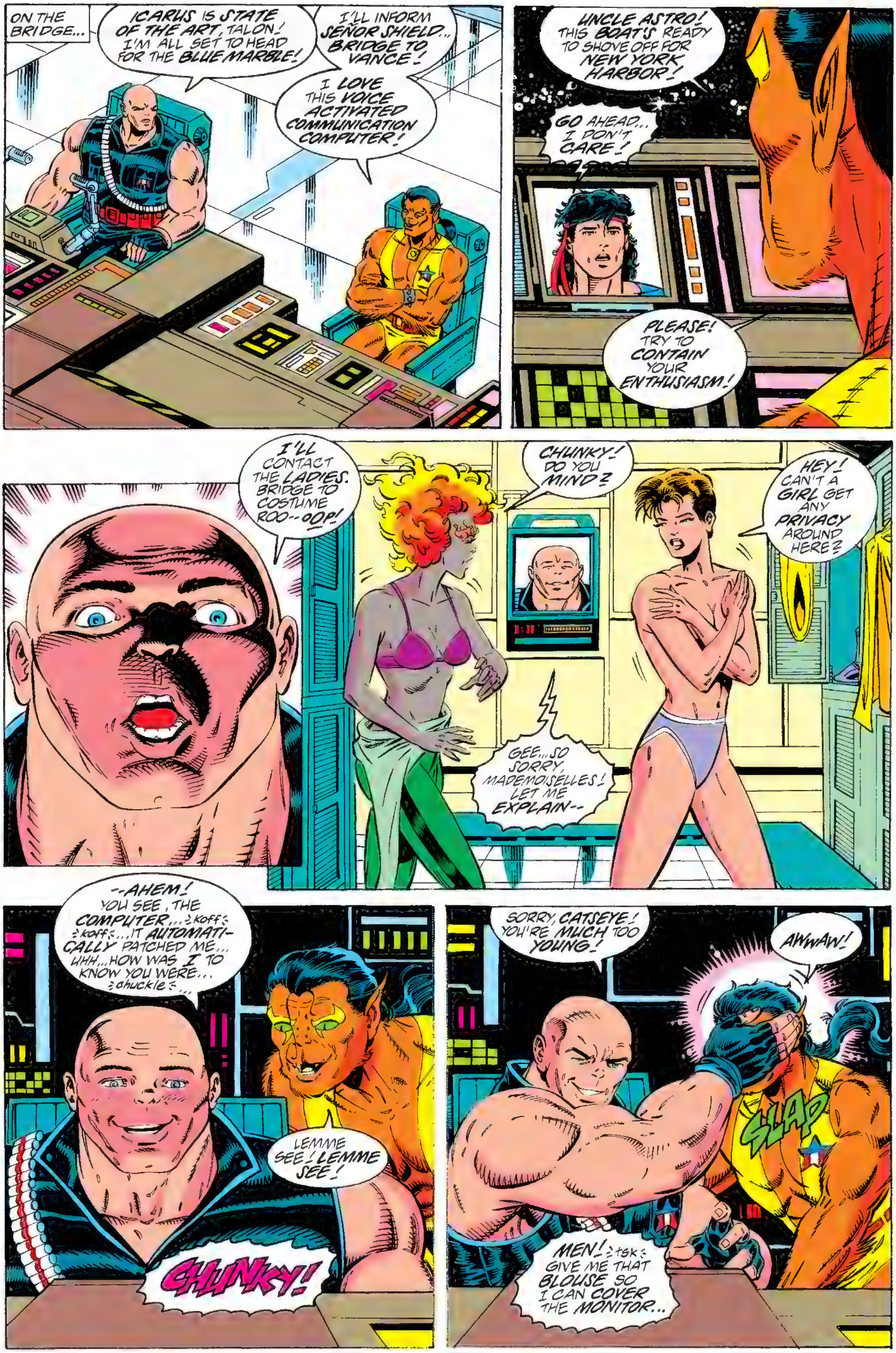
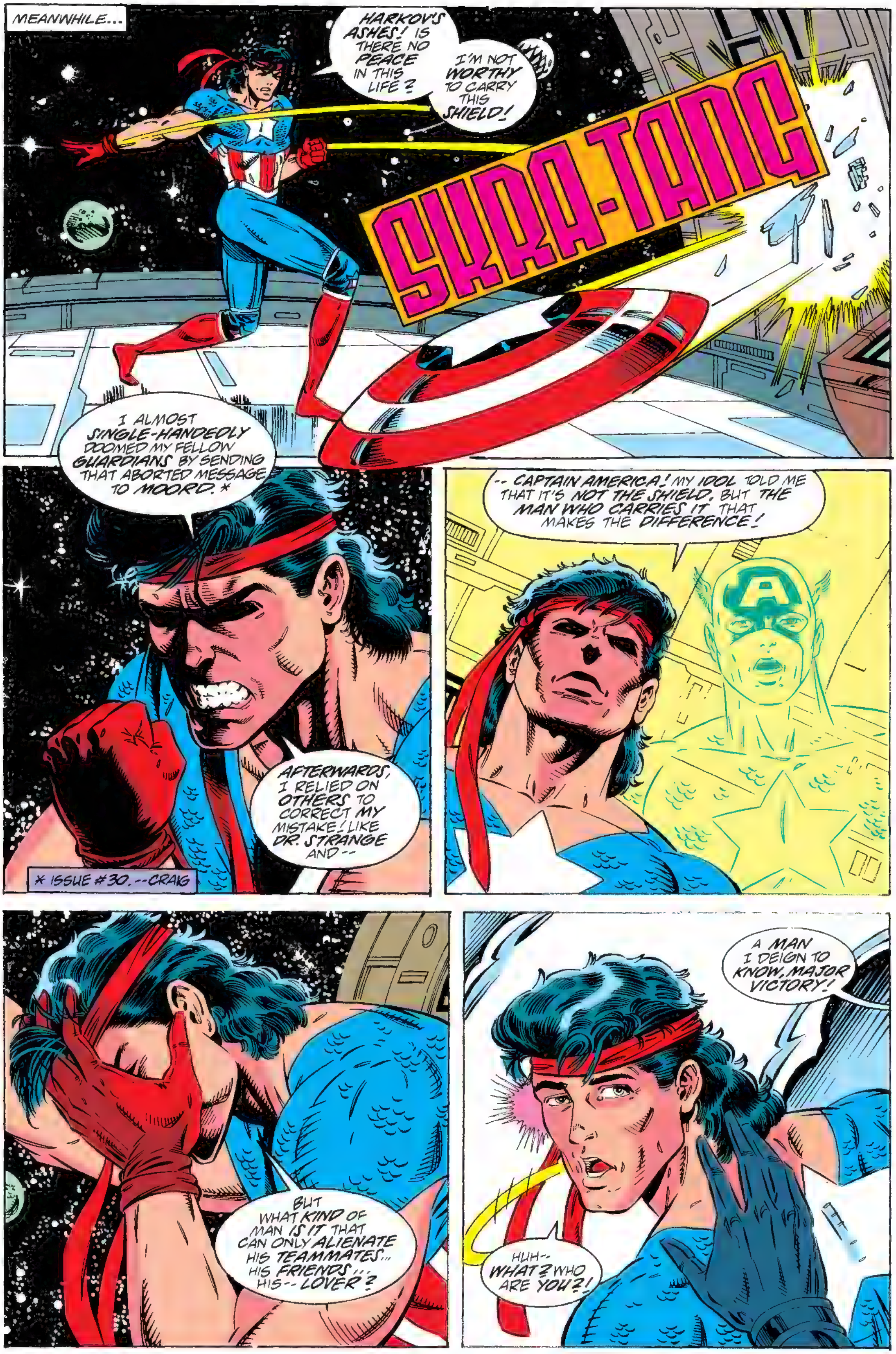
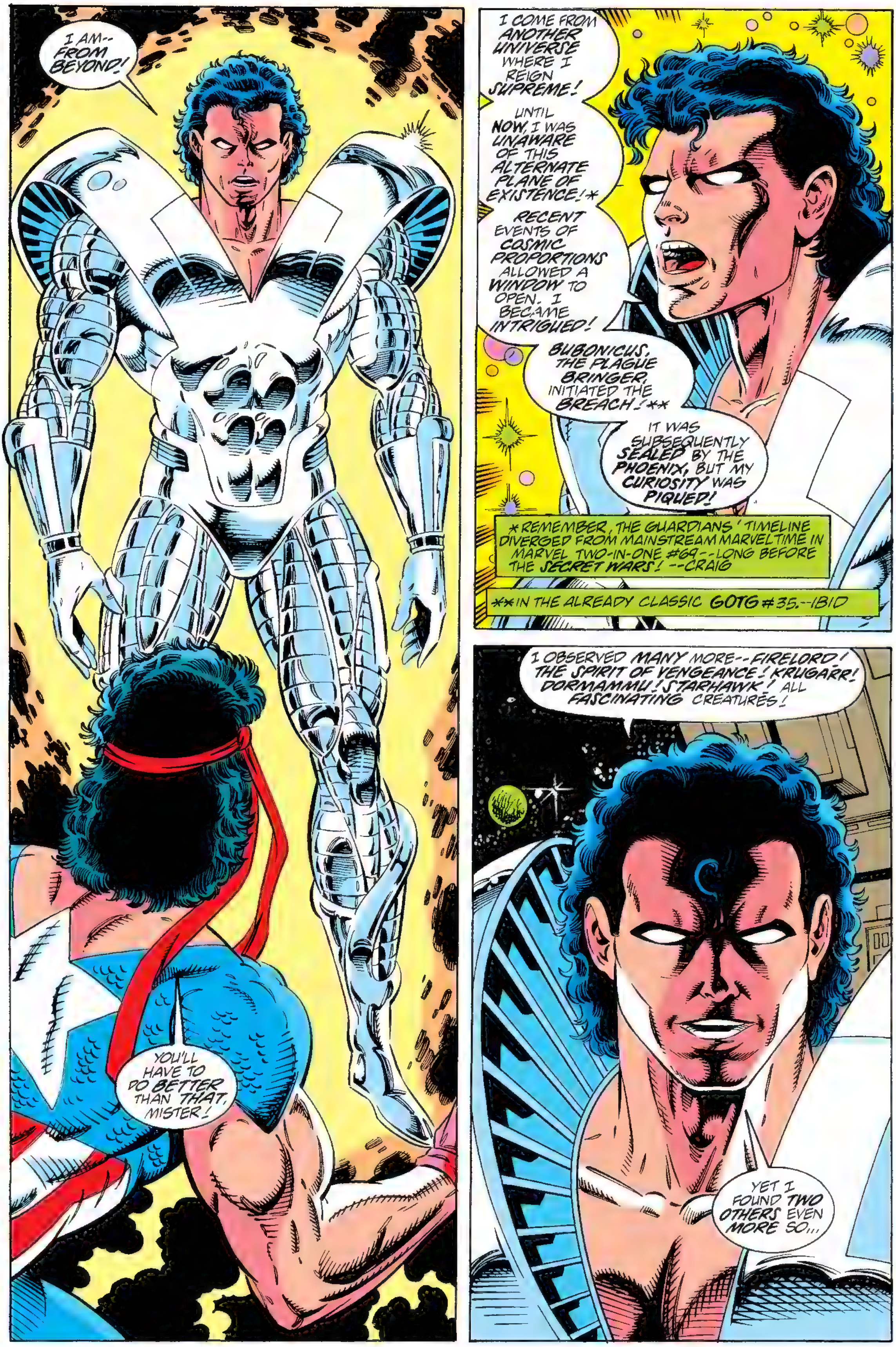
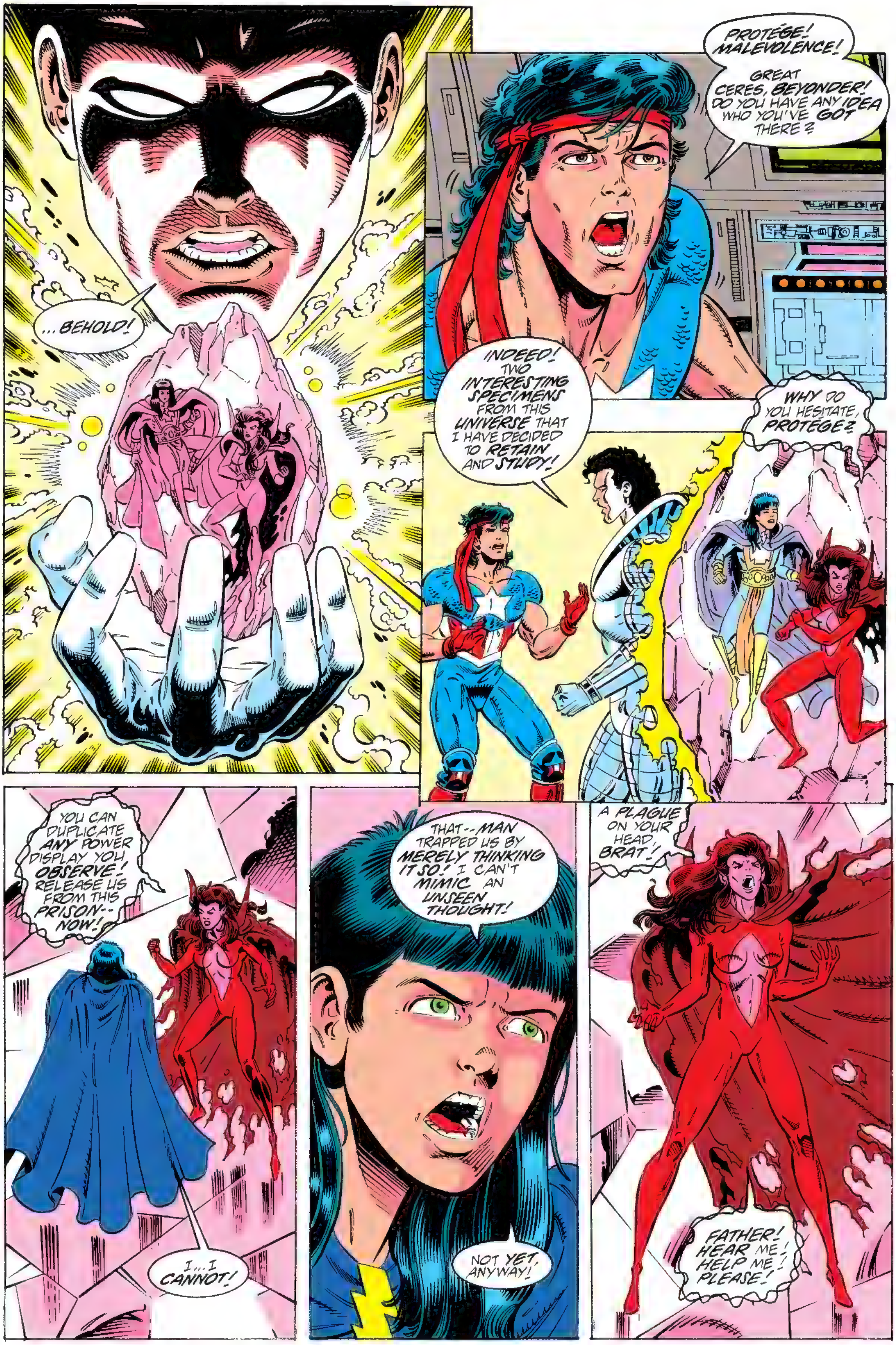

BREAK TIME, GUARDIANS! EXCEPT FOR ME AND PONYTAIL HERE!
WE'LL TAKE THE HELM!
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T JUMP ON TOP OF ME LIKE LAST TIME!*
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, CHUNKY!
AGREED.
*AT THE BEGINNING OF ISSUE #32.--CRAIG
C'MON, NIKKI! I SAW A U.M.F.* COSTUME ROOM BELOW. THIS OUTFIT'S A THOUSAND YEARS OUT OF STYLE!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, YELLOWJACKET!
*UNSTABLE MOLECULE FIBERS-- IBID
ALETA! THIS WILL GIVE US TIME TO GET--RE-ACQUAINTED!
IF YOU INSIST, MAJOR VICTORY!

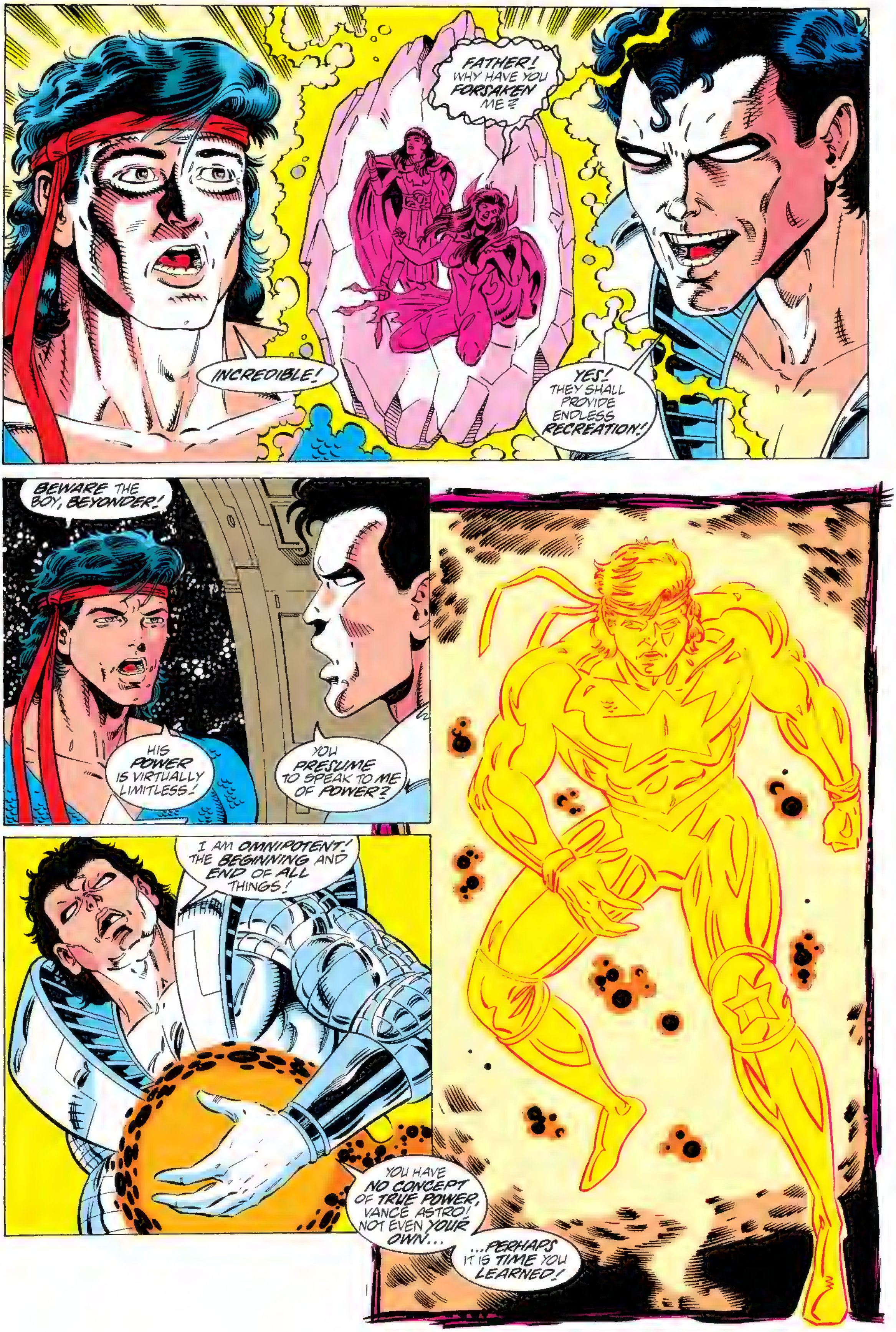

MINUTES LATER:
THIS IS SOME SHIP MARTY GAVE US! DON'T YOU LOVE THIS OBSERVATION DECK, ALETA?
I PREFER TO BE ADDRESSED AS STARHAWK!
STAR--? WELL... UH... SURE! IF YOU SAY SO!
I--I'VE SENSED A GROWING COLDNESS FROM YOU SINCE YOUR INITIAL RETURN. HAVE I DONE SOMETHING TO UPSET YOU?
I BEAR A RESPONSIBILITY THAT YOU CANNOT COMPREHEND! FOR I AM NOW "THE ONE WHO KNOWS"!
IF THAT SHATTERS YOUR FRAGILE EGO--
--I SHALL QUIT YOUR SIGHT!
NO! ALET-- ER-- STAR-HAWK! WAIT!
SWELL!
THAT'S--
--JUST--
--SWELL!
sigh

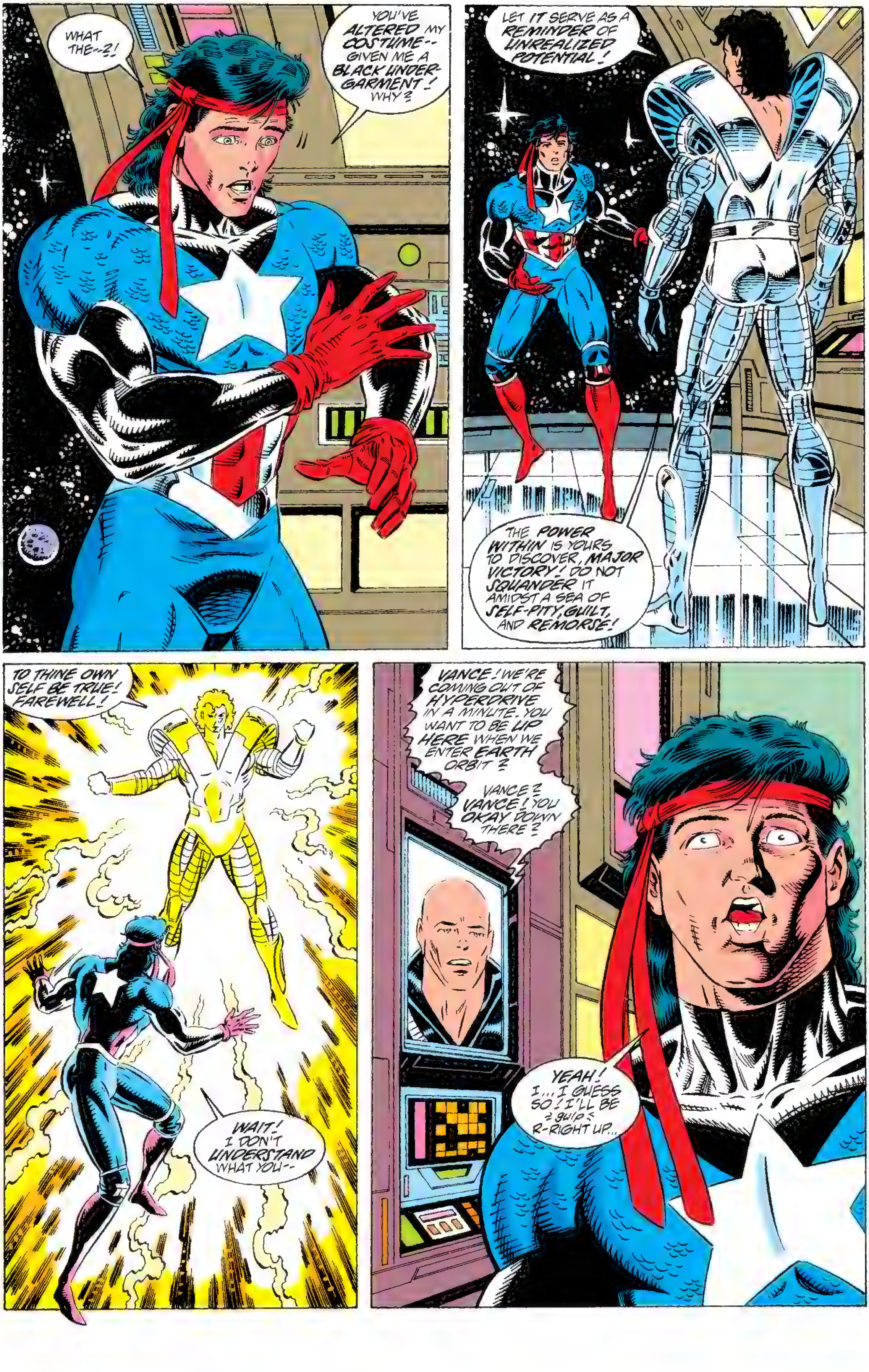

ON THE BRIDGE...
ICARUS IS STATE OF THE ART, TALON! I'M ALL SET TO HEAD FOR THE BLUE MARBLE!
I'LL INFORM SEÑOR SHIELD... BRIDGE TO VANCE!
I LOVE THIS VOICE ACTIVATED COMMUNICATION COMPUTER!
UNCLE ASTRO! THIS BOAT'S READY TO SHOVE OFF FOR NEW YORK HARBOR!
GO AHEAD... I DON'T CARE!
PLEASE! TRY TO CONTAIN YOUR ENTHUSIASM!
I'LL CONTACT THE LADIES. BRIDGE TO COSTUME ROO--OOP!
CHUNKY! DO YOU MIND?
HEY! CAN'T A GIRL GET ANY PRIVACY AROUND HERE?
GEE... SO SORRY, MADEMOISELLES! LET ME EXPLAIN--
--AHEM! YOU SEE, THE COMPUTER... :koff: :koff:... IT AUTOMATICALLY PATCHED ME... UHH... HOW WAS I TO KNOW YOU WERE... :chuckle:...
LEMME SEE! LEMME SEE!
CHUNKY!
SORRY, CATSEYE! YOU'RE MUCH TOO YOUNG!
AWWAW!
SLAP
MEN! :tsk: GIVE ME THAT BLOUSE SO I CAN COVER THE MONITOR...

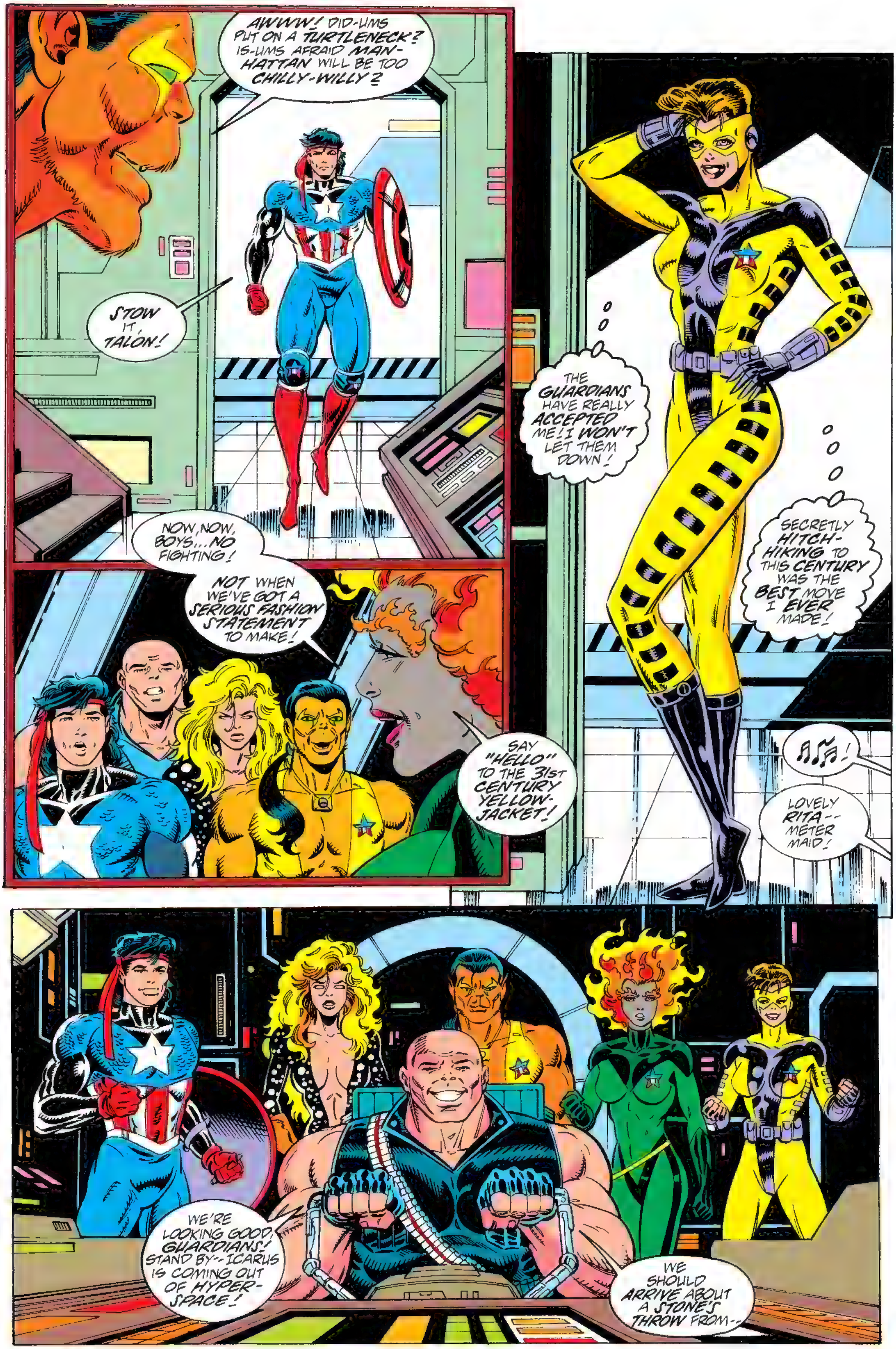

MEANWHILE...
HARKOV'S ASHES! IS THERE NO PEACE IN THIS LIFE?
I'M NOT WORTHY TO CARRY THIS SHIELD!
SKRA-TANG
I ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY DOOMED MY FELLOW GUARDIANS BY SENDING THAT ABORTED MESSAGE TO MOORD.*
AFTERWARDS, I RELIED ON OTHERS TO CORRECT MY MISTAKE! LIKE DR. STRANGE AND--
* ISSUE #30. --CRAIG
-- CAPTAIN AMERICA! MY IDOL TOLD ME THAT IT'S NOT THE SHIELD, BUT THE MAN WHO CARRIES IT THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!
BUT WHAT KIND OF MAN IS IT THAT CAN ONLY ALIENATE HIS TEAMMATES... HIS FRIENDS... HIS-- LOVER?
A MAN I DEIGN TO KNOW, MAJOR VICTORY!
HUH-- WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?!

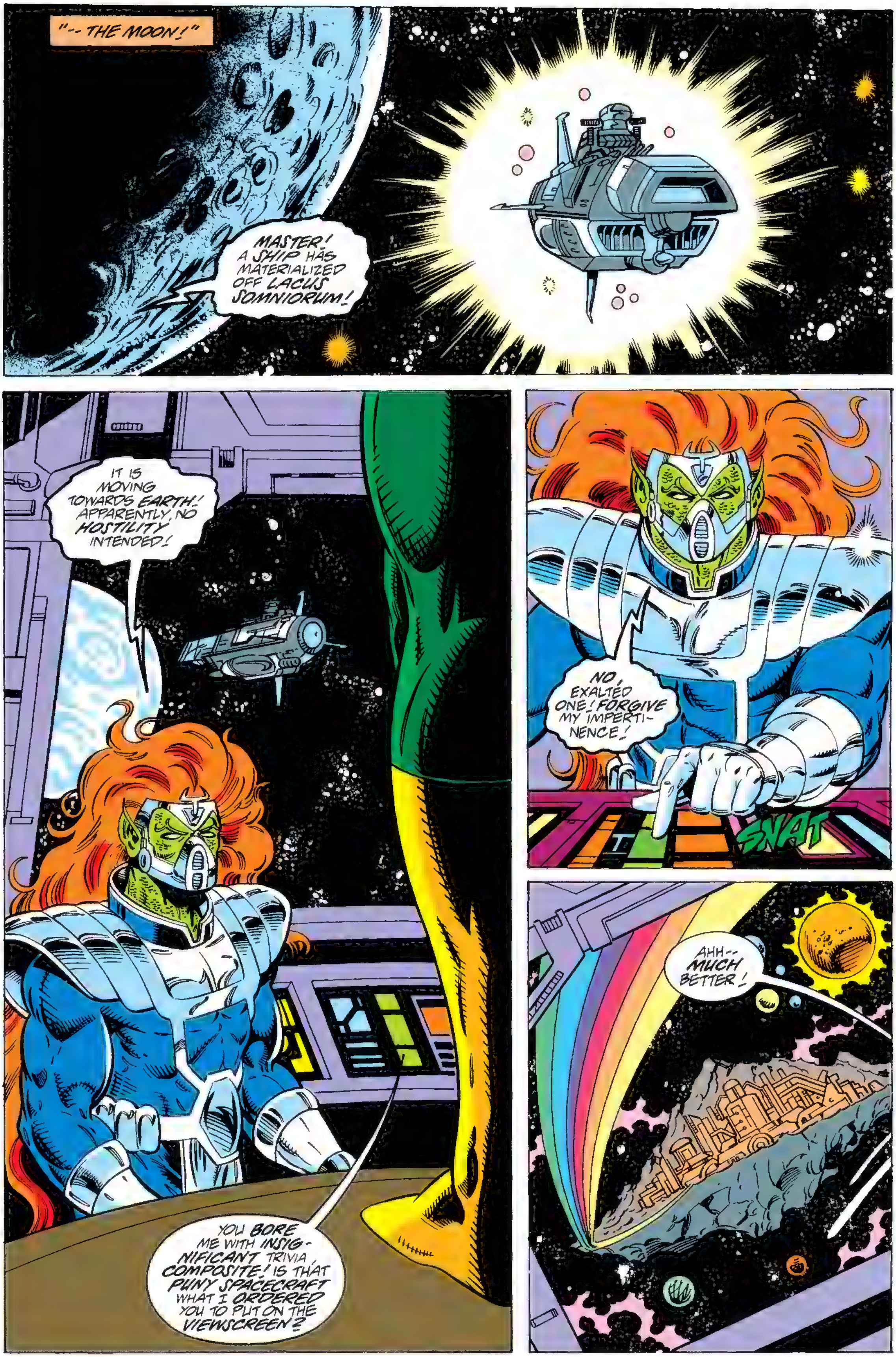

I AM-- FROM BEYOND!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, MISTER!
I COME FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE WHERE I REIGN SUPREME!
UNTIL NOW, I WAS UNAWARE OF THIS ALTERNATE PLANE OF EXISTENCE!*
RECENT EVENTS OF COSMIC PROPORTIONS ALLOWED A WINDOW TO OPEN. I BECAME INTRIGUED!
BUBONICUS, THE PLAGUE BRINGER, INITIATED THE BREACH!**
IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SEALED BY THE PHOENIX, BUT MY CURIOSITY WAS PIQUED!
*REMEMBER, THE GUARDIANS' TIMELINE DIVERGED FROM MAINSTREAM MARVELTIME IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #69--LONG BEFORE THE SECRET WARS! --CRAIG
**IN THE ALREADY CLASSIC GOTG #35.--IBID
I OBSERVED MANY MORE--FIRELORD! THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE! KRUGARR! DORMAMMU! STARHAWK! ALL FASCINATING CREATURES!
YET I FOUND TWO OTHERS EVEN MORE SO...

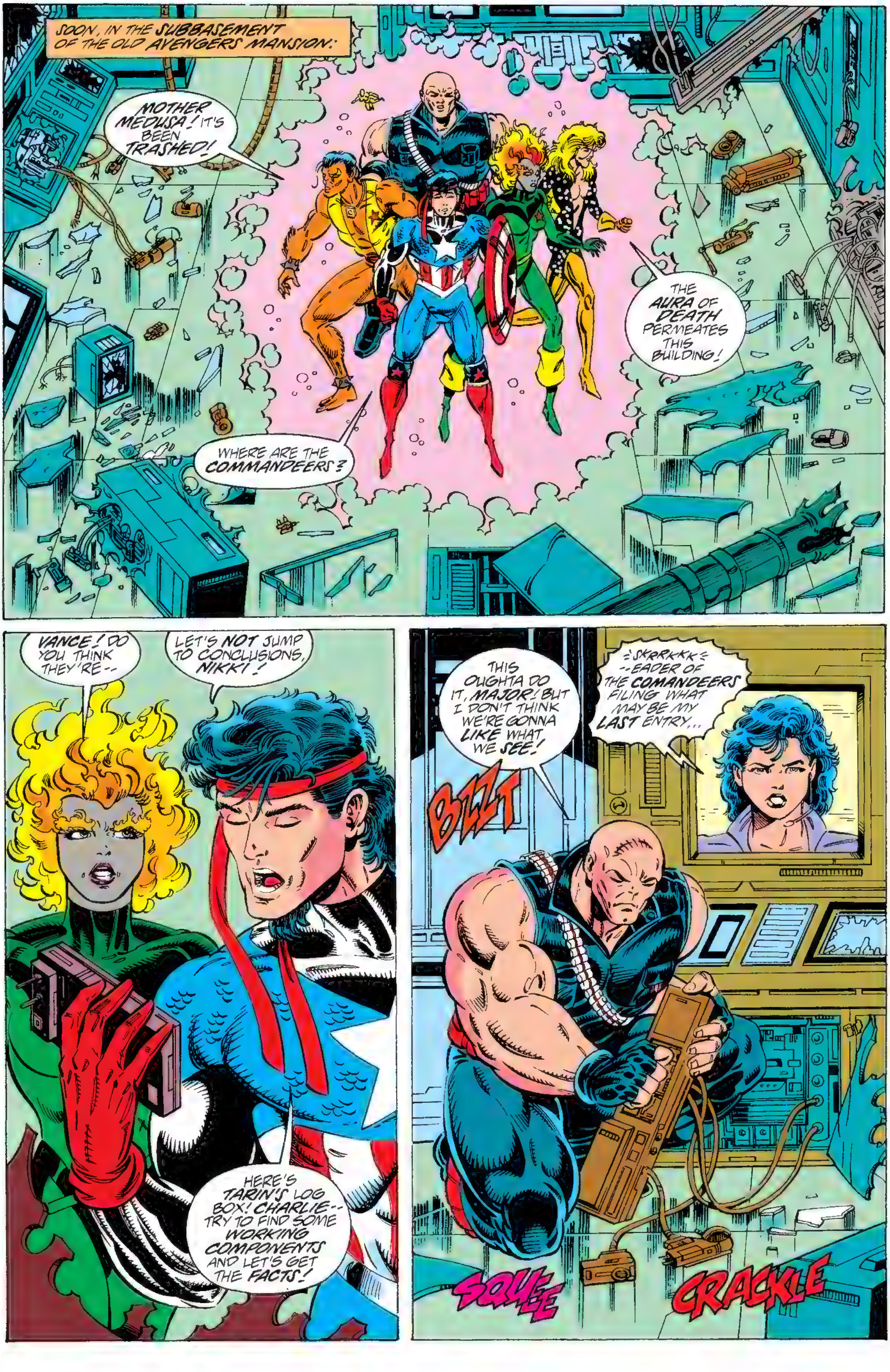

...BEHOLD!
PROTÉGÉ! MALEVOLENCE!
GREAT CERES, BEYONDER! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO YOU'VE GOT THERE?
INDEED! TWO INTERESTING SPECIMENS FROM THIS UNIVERSE THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO RETAIN AND STUDY!
WHY DO YOU HESITATE, PROTEGE?
YOU CAN DUPLICATE ANY POWER DISPLAY YOU OBSERVE! RELEASE US FROM THIS PRISON--NOW!
I... I CANNOT!
THAT--MAN TRAPPED US BY MERELY THINKING IT SO! I CAN'T MIMIC AN UNSEEN THOUGHT!
NOT YET, ANYWAY!
A PLAGUE ON YOUR HEAD, BRAT!
FATHER! HEAR ME! HELP ME! PLEASE!

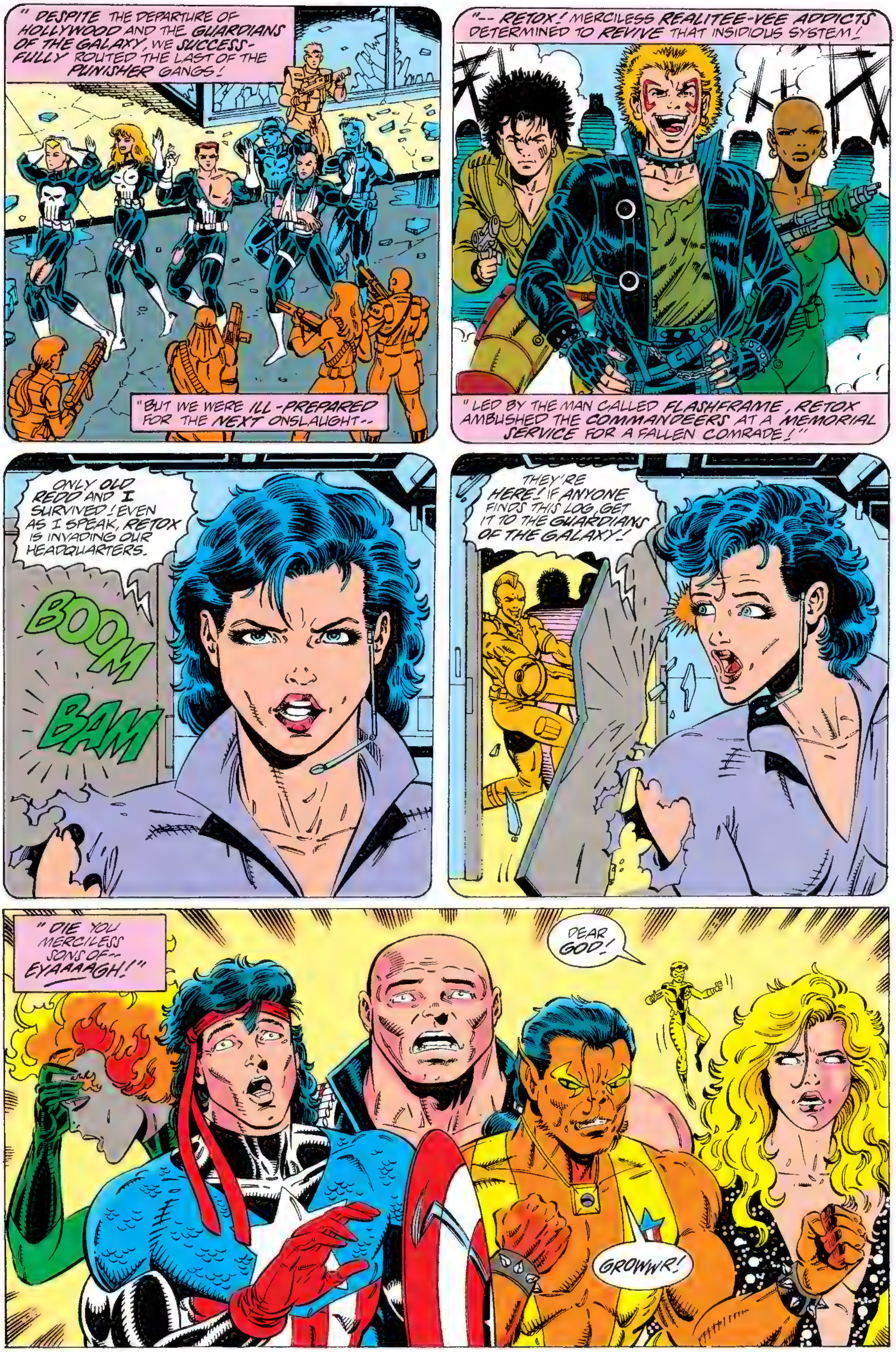

FATHER! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?
INCREDIBLE!
YES! THEY SHALL PROVIDE ENDLESS RECREATION!
BEWARE THE BOY, BEYONDER!
HIS POWER IS VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS!
YOU PRESUME TO SPEAK TO ME OF POWER?
I AM OMNIPOTENT! THE BEGINNING AND END OF ALL THINGS!
YOU HAVE NO CONCEPT OF TRUE POWER, VANCE ASTRO! NOT EVEN YOUR OWN...
...PERHAPS IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED!

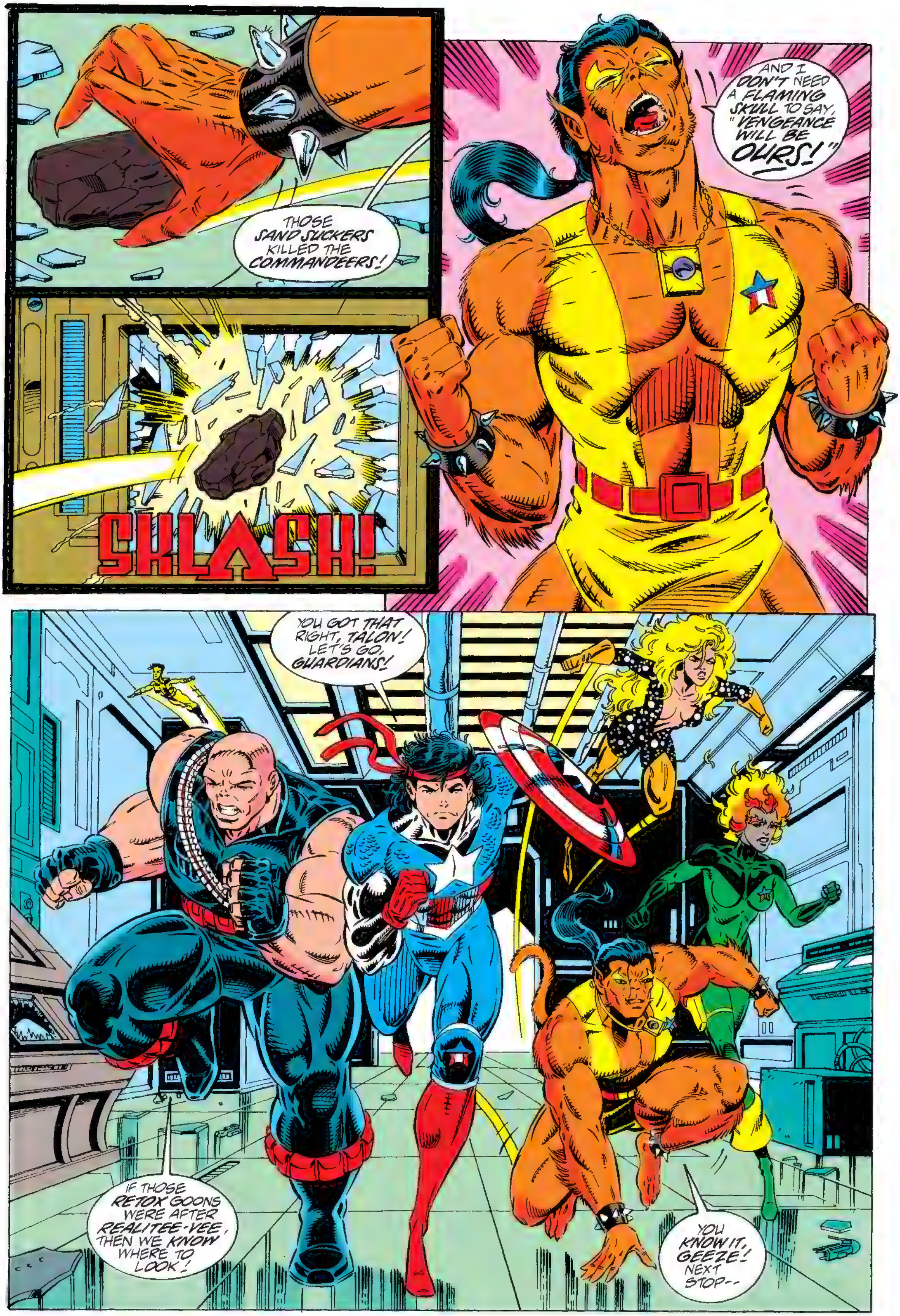

WHAT THE--?!
YOU'VE ALTERED MY COSTUME-- GIVEN ME A BLACK UNDERGARMENT! WHY?
LET IT SERVE AS A REMINDER OF UNREALIZED POTENTIAL!
THE POWER WITHIN IS YOURS TO DISCOVER, MAJOR VICTORY! DO NOT SQUANDER IT AMIDST A SEA OF SELF-PITY, GUILT, AND REMORSE!
TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE! FAREWELL!
WAIT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU--
VANCE! WE'RE COMING OUT OF HYPERDRIVE IN A MINUTE. YOU WANT TO BE UP HERE WHEN WE ENTER EARTH ORBIT?
VANCE? VANCE! YOU OKAY DOWN THERE?
YEAH! I... I GUESS SO! I'LL BE ≥gulp≤ R-RIGHT UP...

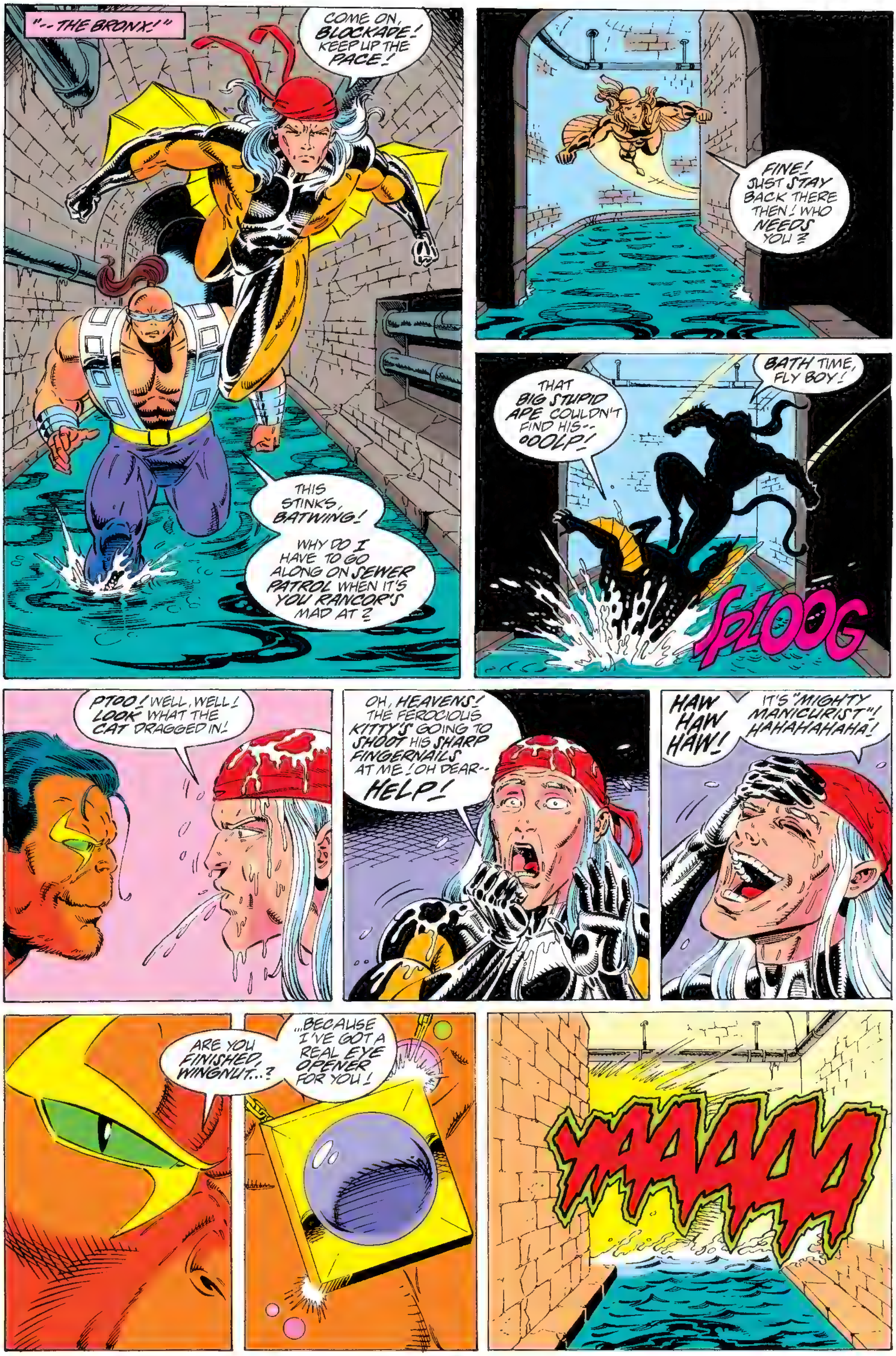

AWWW! DID-UMS PUT ON A TURTLENECK? IS-UMS AFRAID MAN-HATTAN WILL BE TOO CHILLY-WILLY?
STOW IT, TALON!
NOW, NOW, BOYS... NO FIGHTING!
NOT WHEN WE'VE GOT A SERIOUS FASHION STATEMENT TO MAKE!
SAY "HELLO" TO THE 31st CENTURY YELLOWJACKET!
THE GUARDIANS HAVE REALLY ACCEPTED ME! I WON'T LET THEM DOWN!
SECRETLY HITCH-HIKING TO THIS CENTURY WAS THE BEST MOVE I EVER MADE!
♫♫!
LOVELY RITA--METER MAID!
WE'RE LOOKING GOOD, GUARDIANS! STAND BY--ICARUS IS COMING OUT OF HYPER-SPACE!
WE SHOULD ARRIVE ABOUT A STONE'S THROW FROM--

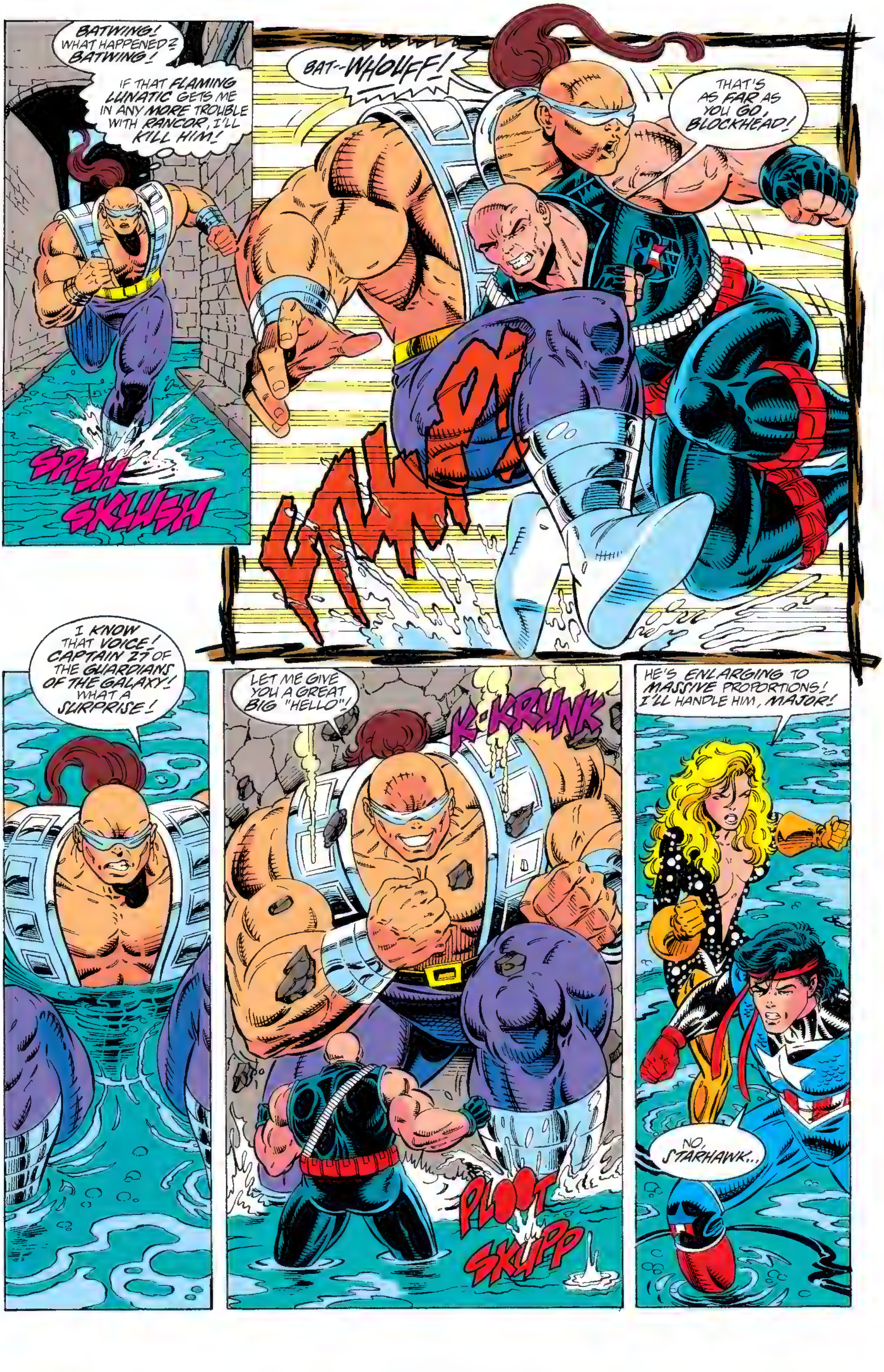

"-- THE MOON!"
MASTER! A SHIP HAS MATERIALIZED OFF LACUS SOMNIORUM!
IT IS MOVING TOWARDS EARTH! APPARENTLY, NO HOSTILITY INTENDED!
YOU BORE ME WITH INSIGNIFICANT TRIVIA, COMPOSITE! IS THAT PUNY SPACECRAFT WHAT I ORDERED YOU TO PUT ON THE VIEWSCREEN?
NO, EXALTED ONE! FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE!
SNAT
AHH-- MUCH BETTER!

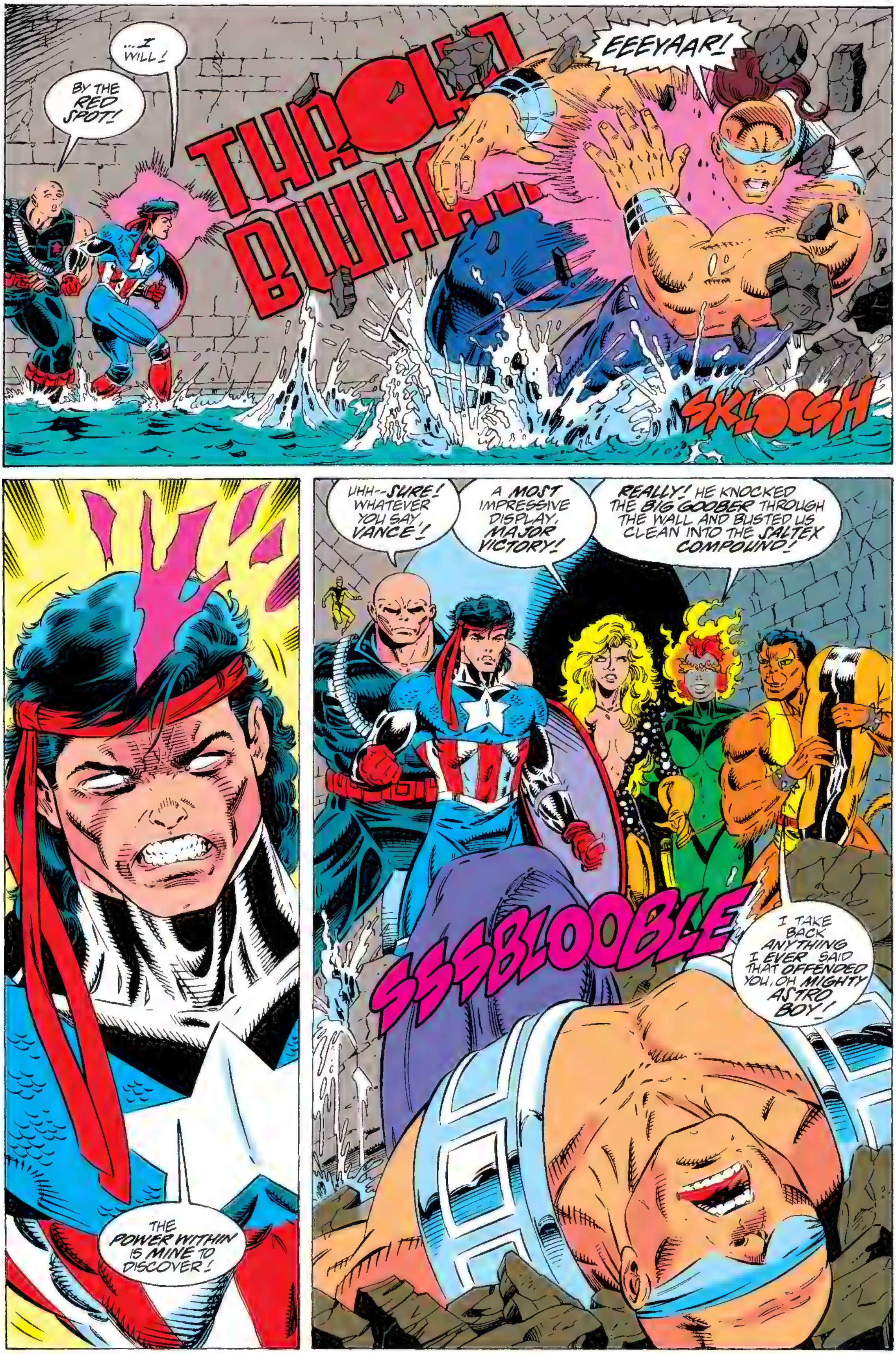

SOON, IN THE SUBBASEMENT OF THE OLD AVENGERS MANSION:
MOTHER MEDUSA! IT'S BEEN TRASHED!
THE AURA OF DEATH PERMEATES THIS BUILDING!
WHERE ARE THE COMMANDEERS?
VANCE! DO YOU THINK THEY'RE--
LET'S NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, NIKKI!
HERE'S TARIN'S LOG BOX! CHARLIE-- TRY TO FIND SOME WORKING COMPONENTS AND LET'S GET THE FACTS!
THIS OUGHTA DO IT, MAJOR! BUT I DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA LIKE WHAT WE SEE!
BZZT
=SKRRKKK= --EADER OF THE COMANDEERS FILING WHAT MAY BE MY LAST ENTRY...
SQUEE
CRACKLE

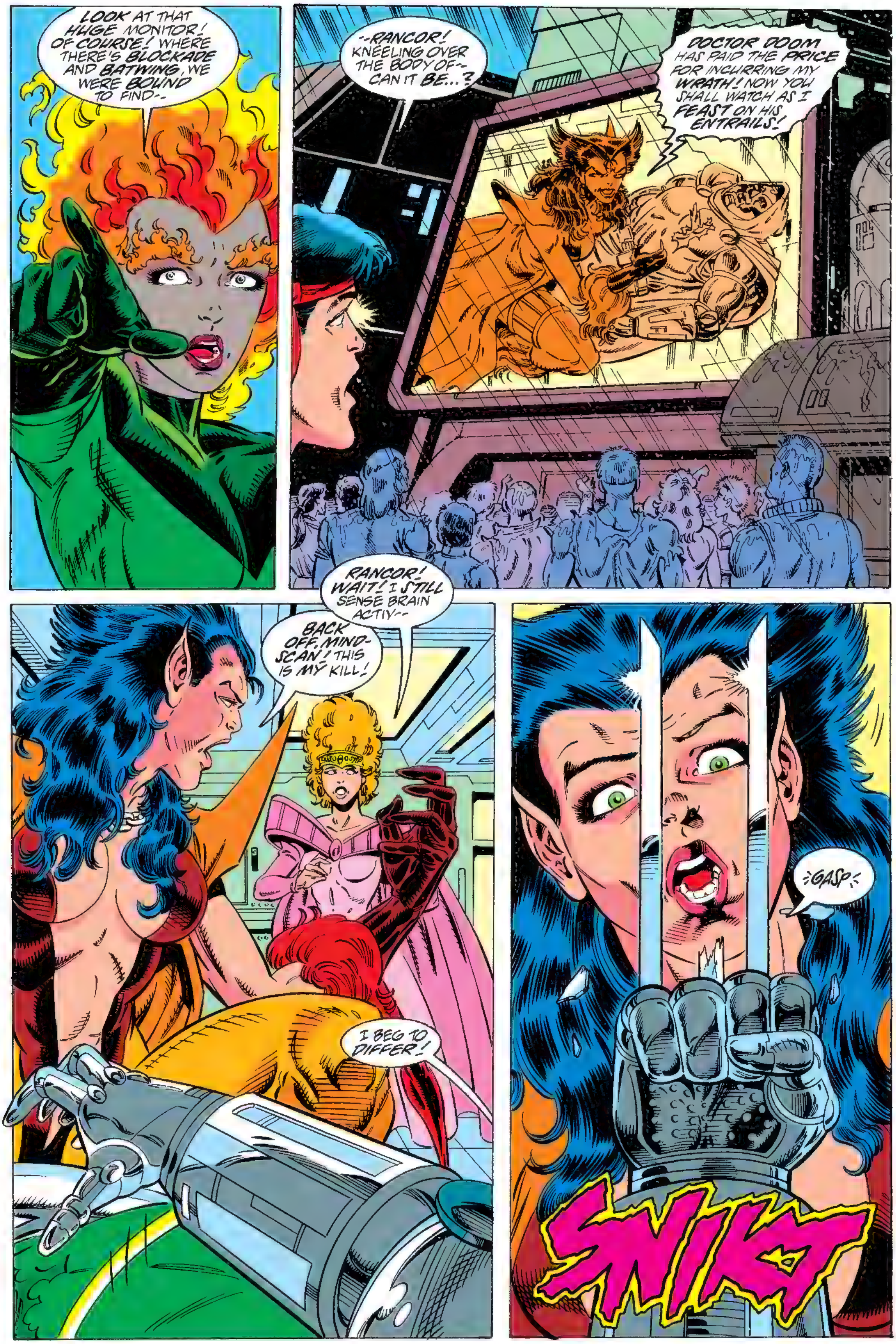

"DESPITE THE DEPARTURE OF HOLLYWOOD AND THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, WE SUCCESSFULLY ROUTED THE LAST OF THE PUNISHER GANGS!
"BUT WE WERE ILL-PREPARED FOR THE NEXT ONSLAUGHT--
"-- RETOX! MERCILESS REALITEE-VEE ADDICTS DETERMINED TO REVIVE THAT INSIDIOUS SYSTEM!
"LED BY THE MAN CALLED FLASHFRAME, RETOX AMBUSHED THE COMMANDEERS AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A FALLEN COMRADE!"
ONLY OLD REDD AND I SURVIVED! EVEN AS I SPEAK, RETOX IS INVADING OUR HEADQUARTERS.
BOOM
BAM
THEY'RE HERE! IF ANYONE FINDS THIS LOG, GET IT TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!
"DIE YOU MERCILESS SONS OF-- EYAAAAGH!"
DEAR GOD!
GROWWR!

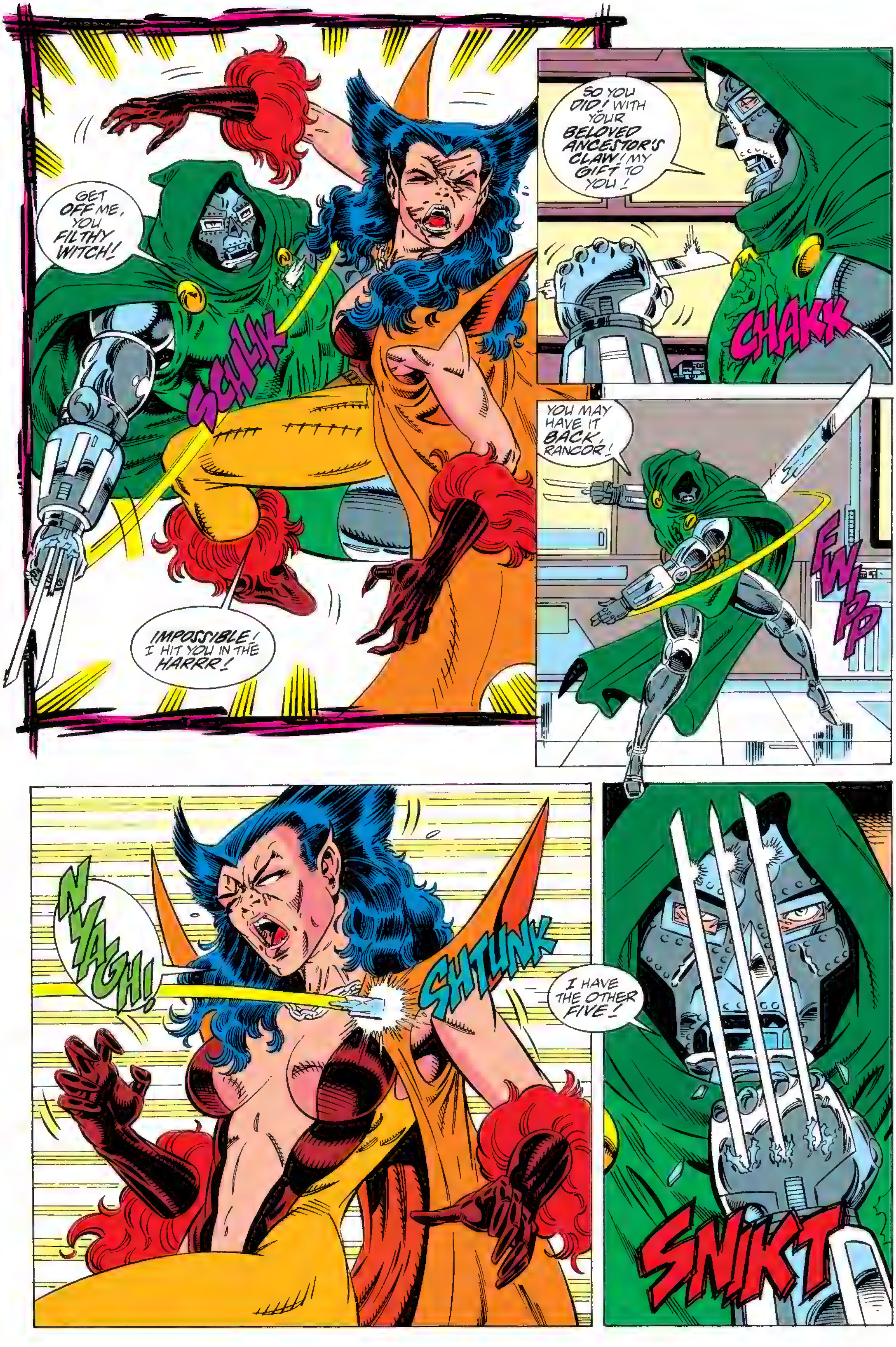

THOSE SAND SUCKERS KILLED THE COMMANDEERS!
SKLASH!
AND I DON'T NEED A FLAMING SKULL TO SAY, "VENGEANCE WILL BE OURS!"
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, TALON! LET'S GO, GUARDIANS!
IF THOSE RETOX GOONS WERE AFTER REALITEE-VEE, THEN WE KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!
YOU KNOW IT, GEEZE! NEXT STOP--

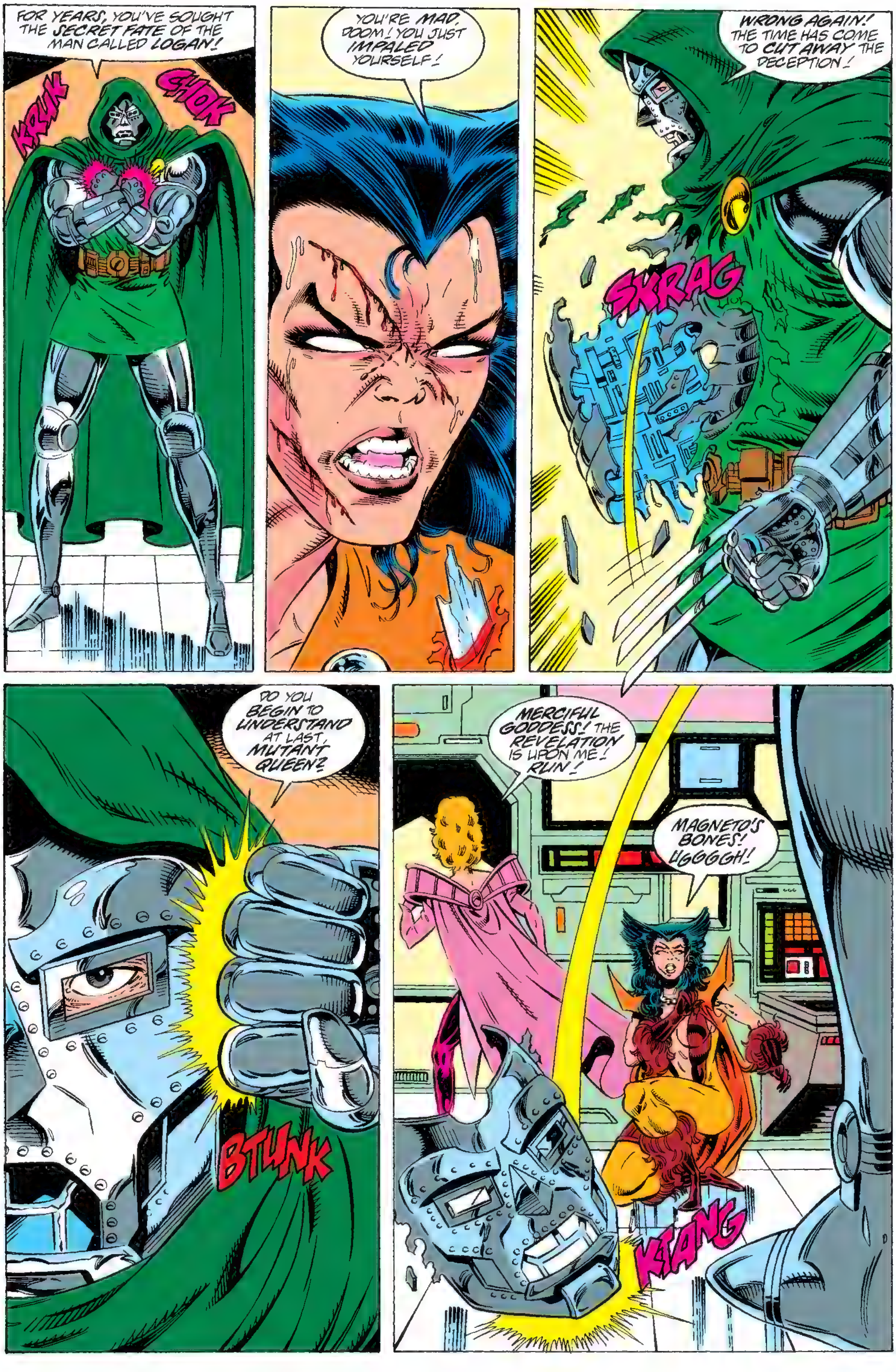

"--THE BRONX!"
COME ON, BLOCKADE! KEEP UP THE PACE!
THIS STINKS, BATWING! WHY DO I HAVE TO GO ALONG ON SEWER PATROL WHEN IT'S YOU RANCOR'S MAD AT ?
FINE! JUST STAY BACK THERE THEN! WHO NEEDS YOU ?
BATH TIME, FLY BOY!
THAT BIG STUPID APE COULDN'T FIND HIS-- OOOLP!
SPLOOG
PTOO! WELL, WELL! LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN!
OH, HEAVENS! THE FEROCIOUS KITTY'S GOING TO SHOOT HIS SHARP FINGERNAILS AT ME! OH DEAR-- HELP!
HAW HAW HAW!
IT'S "MIGHTY MANICURIST"! HAHAHAHAHA!
ARE YOU FINISHED, WINGNUT...?
...BECAUSE I'VE GOT A REAL EYE OPENER FOR YOU!
YAAAAA

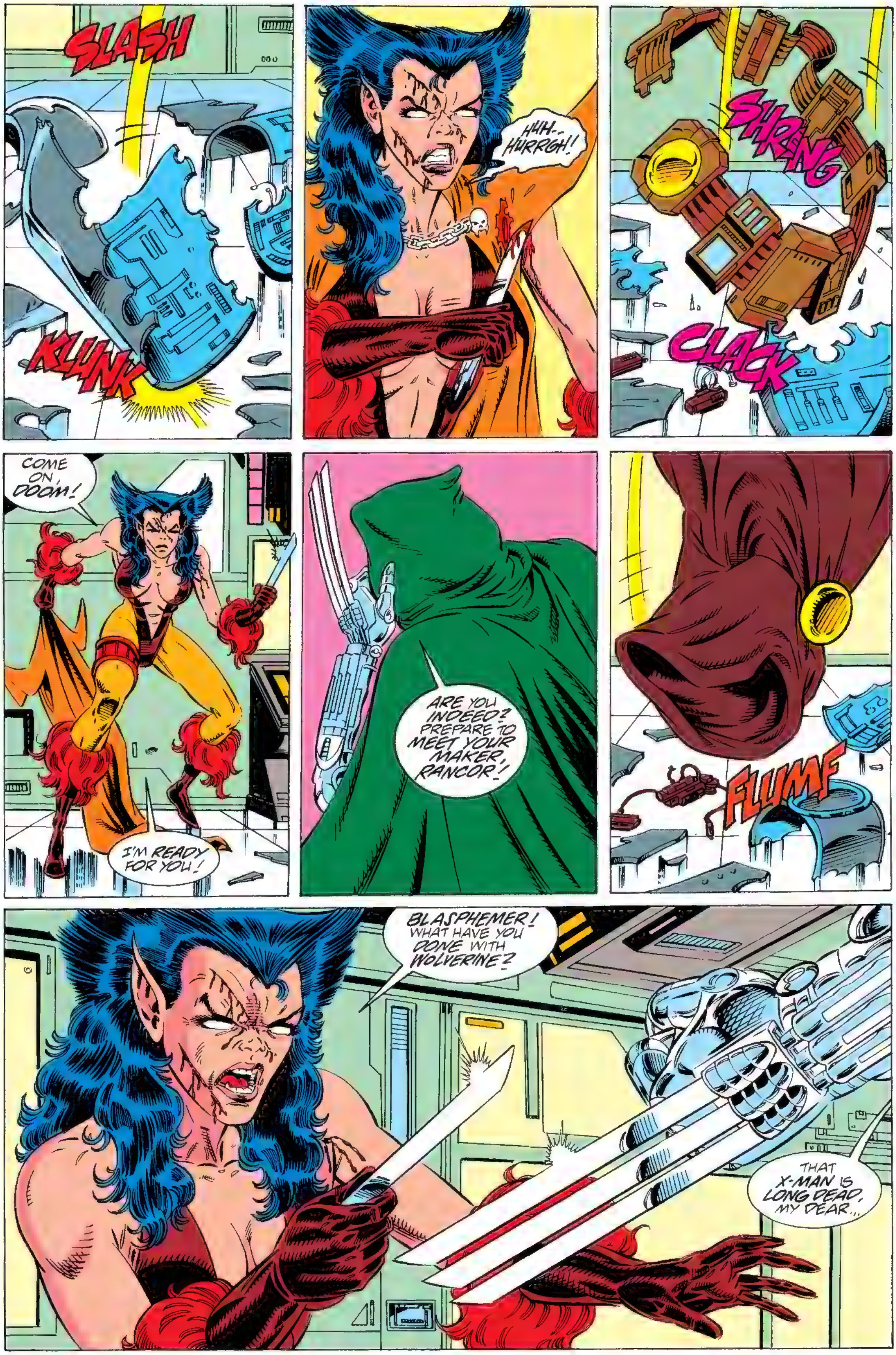

BATWING! WHAT HAPPENED? BATWING!
IF THAT FLAMING LUNATIC GETS ME IN ANY MORE TROUBLE WITH RANCOR, I'LL KILL HIM!
SPISH SKLUSH
BAT--WHOUFF!
THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO, BLOCKHEAD!
I KNOW THAT VOICE! CAPTAIN 27 OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! WHAT A SURPRISE!
LET ME GIVE YOU A GREAT BIG "HELLO"!
K-KRUNK
PLOOT SKUPP
HE'S ENLARGING TO MASSIVE PROPORTIONS! I'LL HANDLE HIM, MAJOR!
NO, STARHAWK...

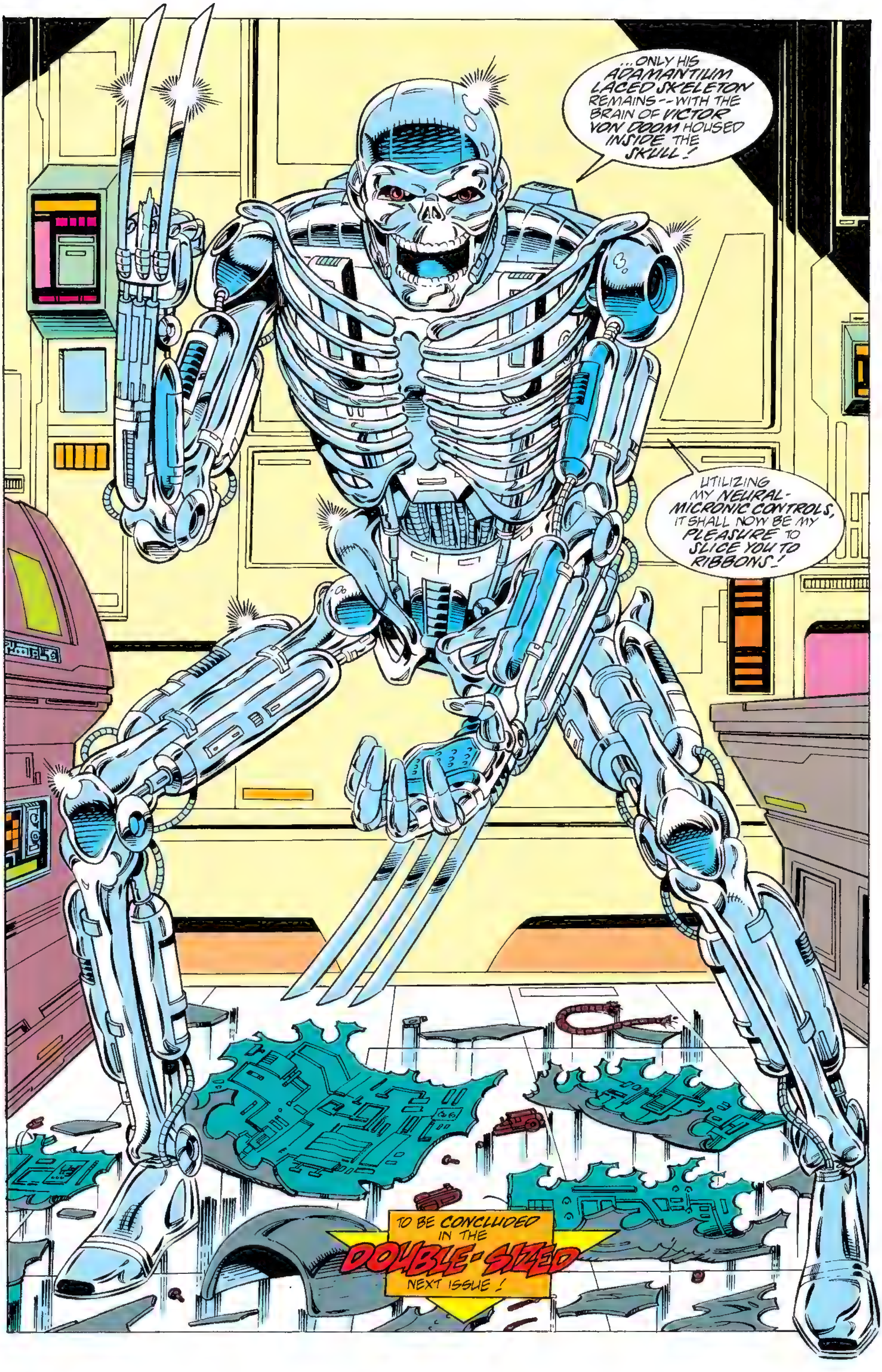

BY THE RED SPOT!
...I WILL!
EEEYAAR!
SKLOOSH
THE POWER WITHIN IS MINE TO DISCOVER!
UHH--SURE! WHATEVER YOU SAY, VANCE!
A MOST IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY, MAJOR VICTORY!
REALLY! HE KNOCKED THE BIG GOOBER THROUGH THE WALL AND BUSTED US CLEAN INTO THE SALTEX COMPOUND!
SSSBLOOBLE
I TAKE BACK ANYTHING I EVER SAID THAT OFFENDED YOU, OH MIGHTY ASTRO BOY!


LOOK AT THAT HUGE MONITOR! OF COURSE! WHERE THERE'S BLOCKADE AND BATWING, WE WERE BOUND TO FIND--
--RANCOR! KNEELING OVER THE BODY OF-- CAN IT BE...?
DOCTOR DOOM HAS PAID THE PRICE FOR INCURRING MY WRATH! NOW YOU SHALL WATCH AS I FEAST ON HIS ENTRAILS!
RANCOR! WAIT! I STILL SENSE BRAIN ACTIV--
BACK OFF, MIND-SCAN! THIS IS MY KILL!
I BEG TO DIFFER!
GASP
SNIKT


GET OFF ME, YOU FILTHY WITCH!
SCHLIK
IMPOSSIBLE! I HIT YOU IN THE HARRR!
SO YOU DID! WITH YOUR BELOVED ANCESTOR'S CLAW! MY GIFT TO YOU!
CHAKK
YOU MAY HAVE IT BACK, RANCOR!
FWIPP
NYAGH!
SHTUNK
I HAVE THE OTHER FIVE!
SNIKT


FOR YEARS, YOU'VE SOUGHT THE SECRET FATE OF THE MAN CALLED LOGAN!
KRUK
CHOK
YOU'RE MAD, DOOM! YOU JUST IMPALED YOURSELF!
WRONG AGAIN! THE TIME HAS COME TO CUT AWAY THE DECEPTION!
SKRAG
DO YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND AT LAST, MUTANT QUEEN?
BTUNK
MERCIFUL GODDESS! THE REVELATION IS UPON ME! RUN!
MAGNETO'S BONES! UGGGGH!
KTANG


SLASH
KLUNK
HUH--HURRGH!
SHRANG
CLACK
COME ON, DOOM!
I'M READY FOR YOU!
ARE YOU INDEED? PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER, RANCOR!
FLUMF
BLASPHEMER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH WOLVERINE?
THAT X-MAN IS LONG DEAD, MY DEAR...


...ONLY HIS ADAMANTIUM LACED SKELETON REMAINS--WITH THE BRAIN OF VICTOR VON DOOM HOUSED INSIDE THE SKULL!
UTILIZING MY NEURAL-MICRONIC CONTROLS, IT SHALL NOW BE MY PLEASURE TO SLICE YOU TO RIBBONS!
TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE DOUBLE-SIZED NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS
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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY™
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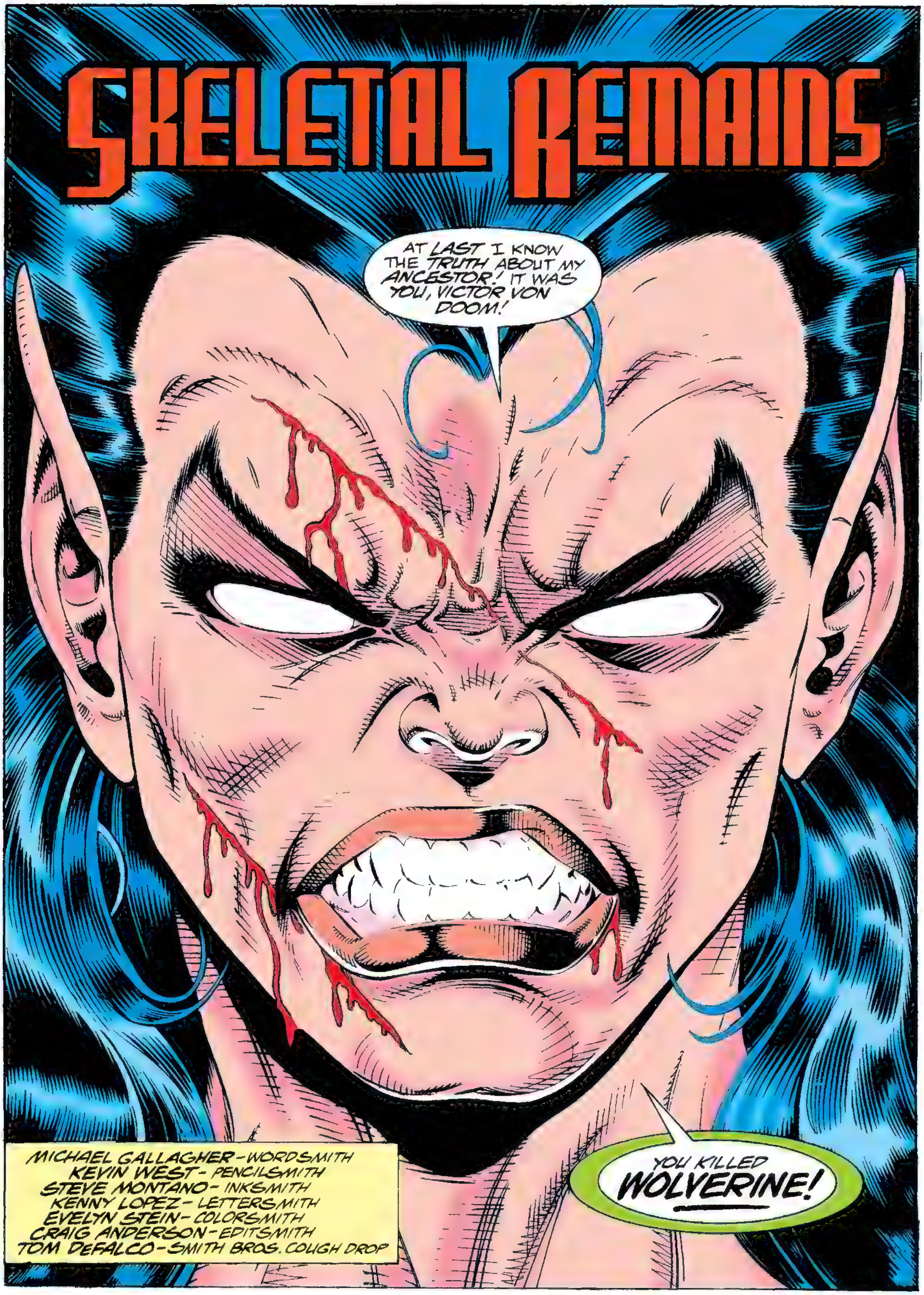
SHE WAS LOOKING FOR HER ANCESTOR, WOLVERINE!® SHE FOUND MORE THAN SHE BARGAINED FOR!
WEST/MONTANO
RANCOR™ VS. DR. DOOM™


SKELETAL REMAINS
AT LAST I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT MY ANCESTOR! IT WAS YOU, VICTOR VON DOOM!
YOU KILLED WOLVERINE!
MICHAEL GALLAGHER-WORDSMITH
KEVIN WEST-PENCILSMITH
STEVE MONTANO-INKSMITH
KENNY LOPEZ-LETTERSMITH
EVELYN STEIN-COLORSMITH
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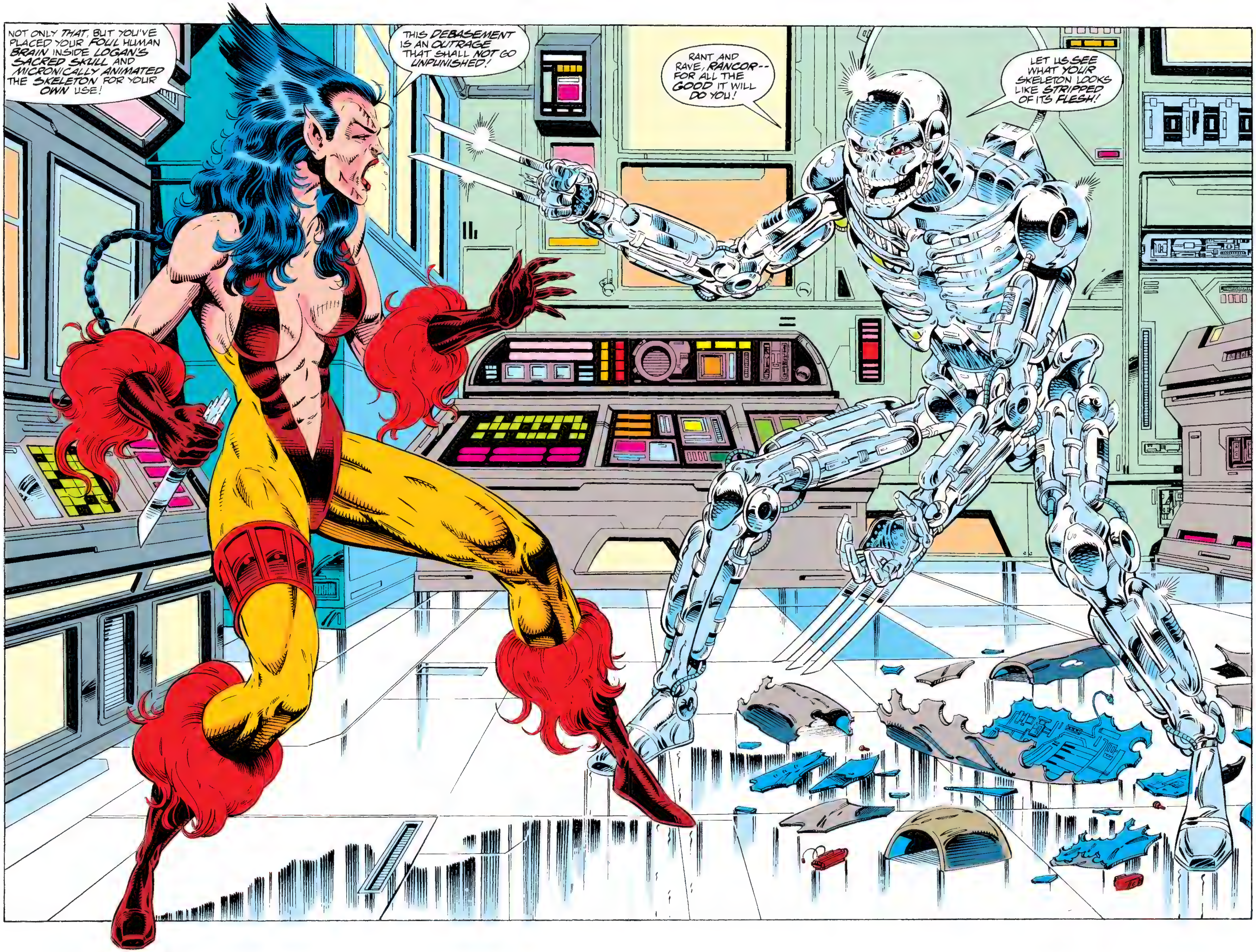
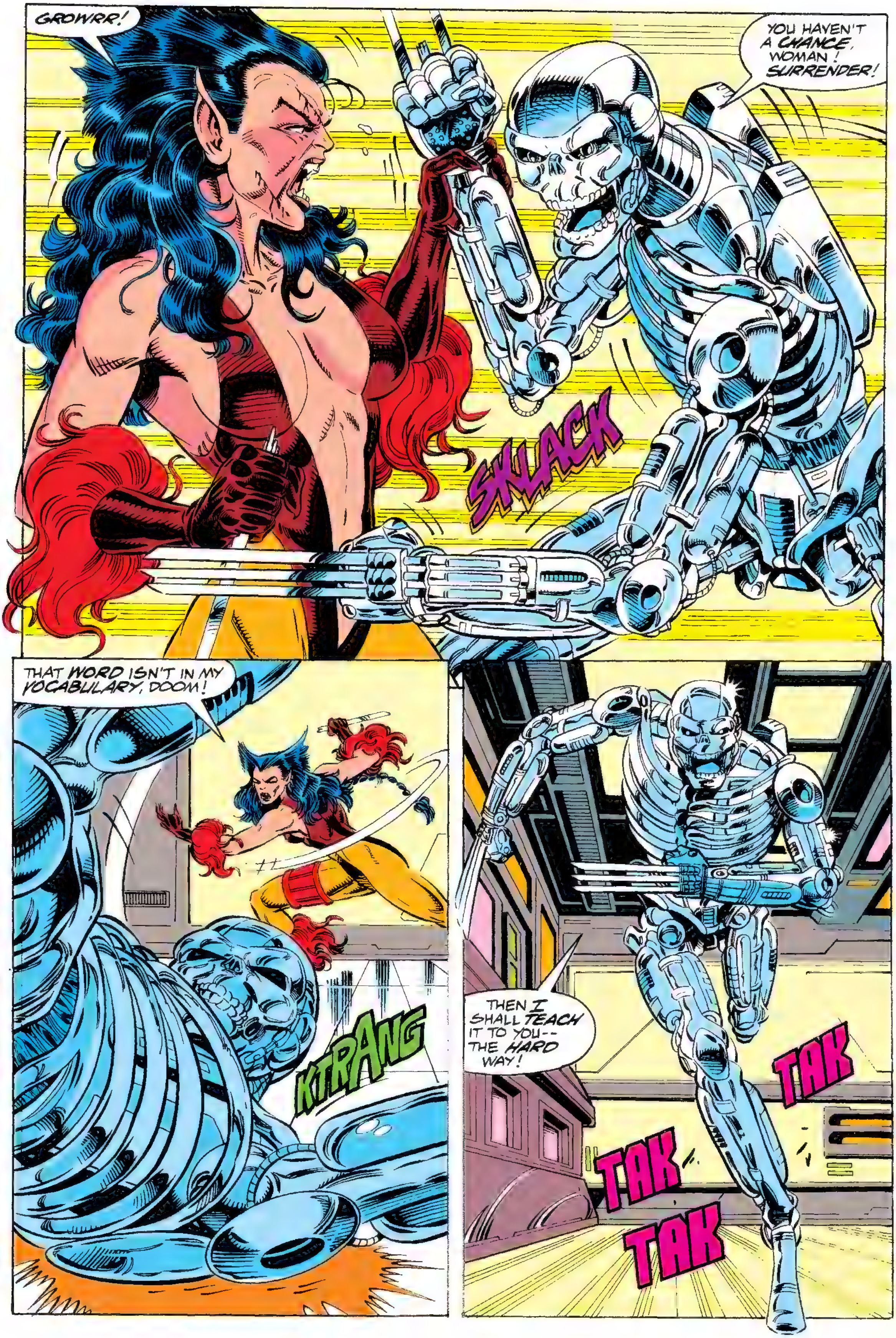
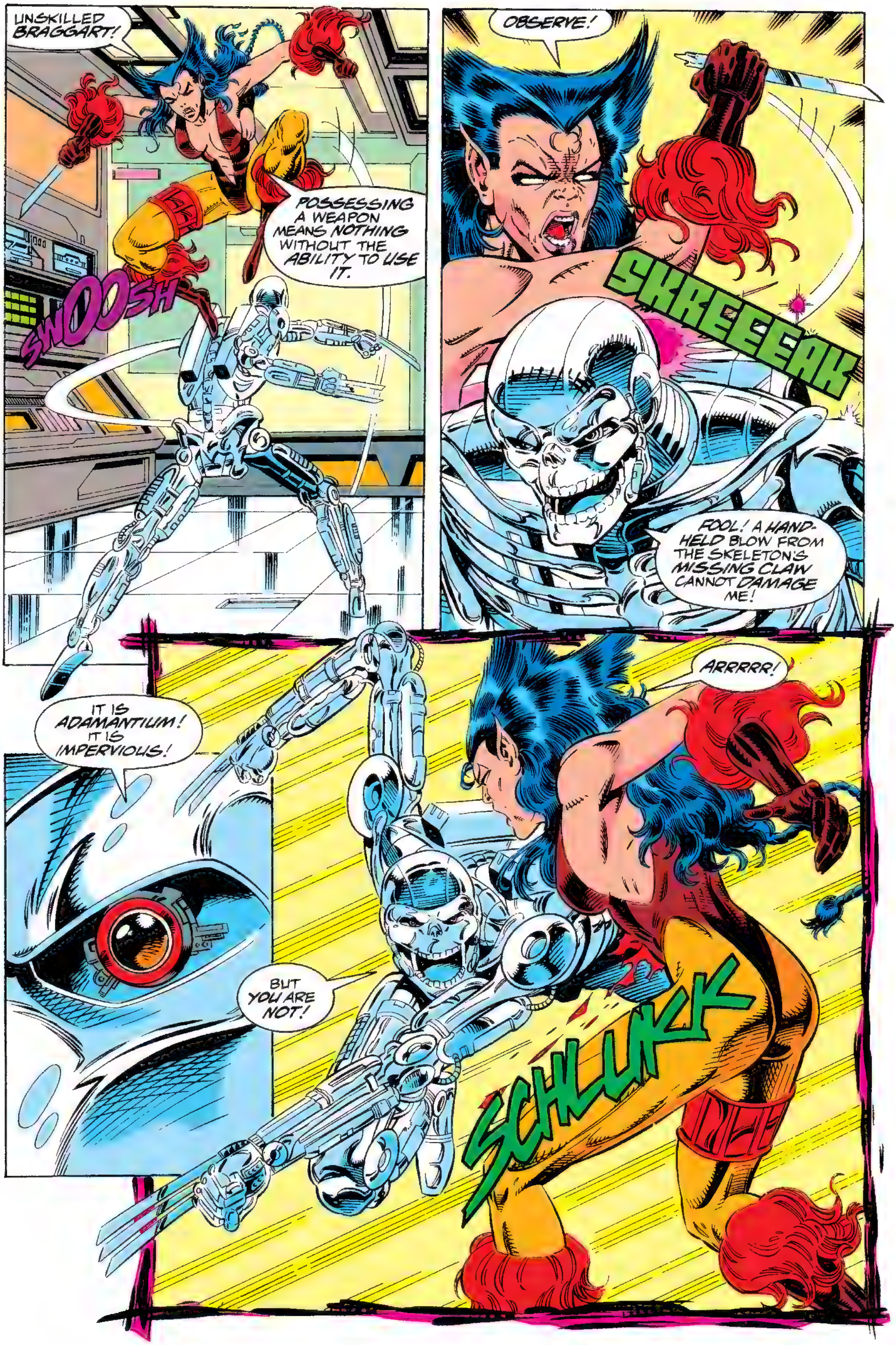
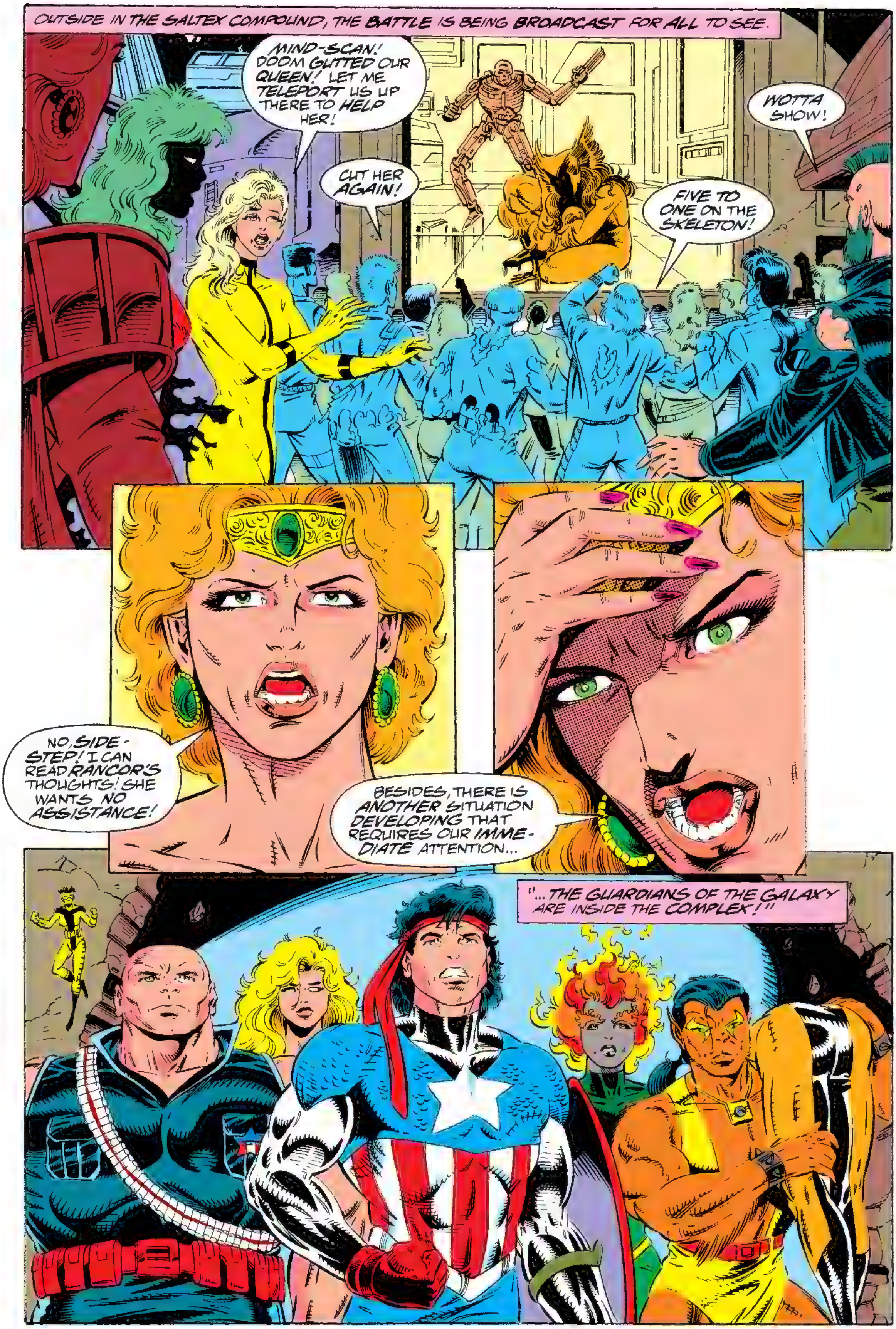
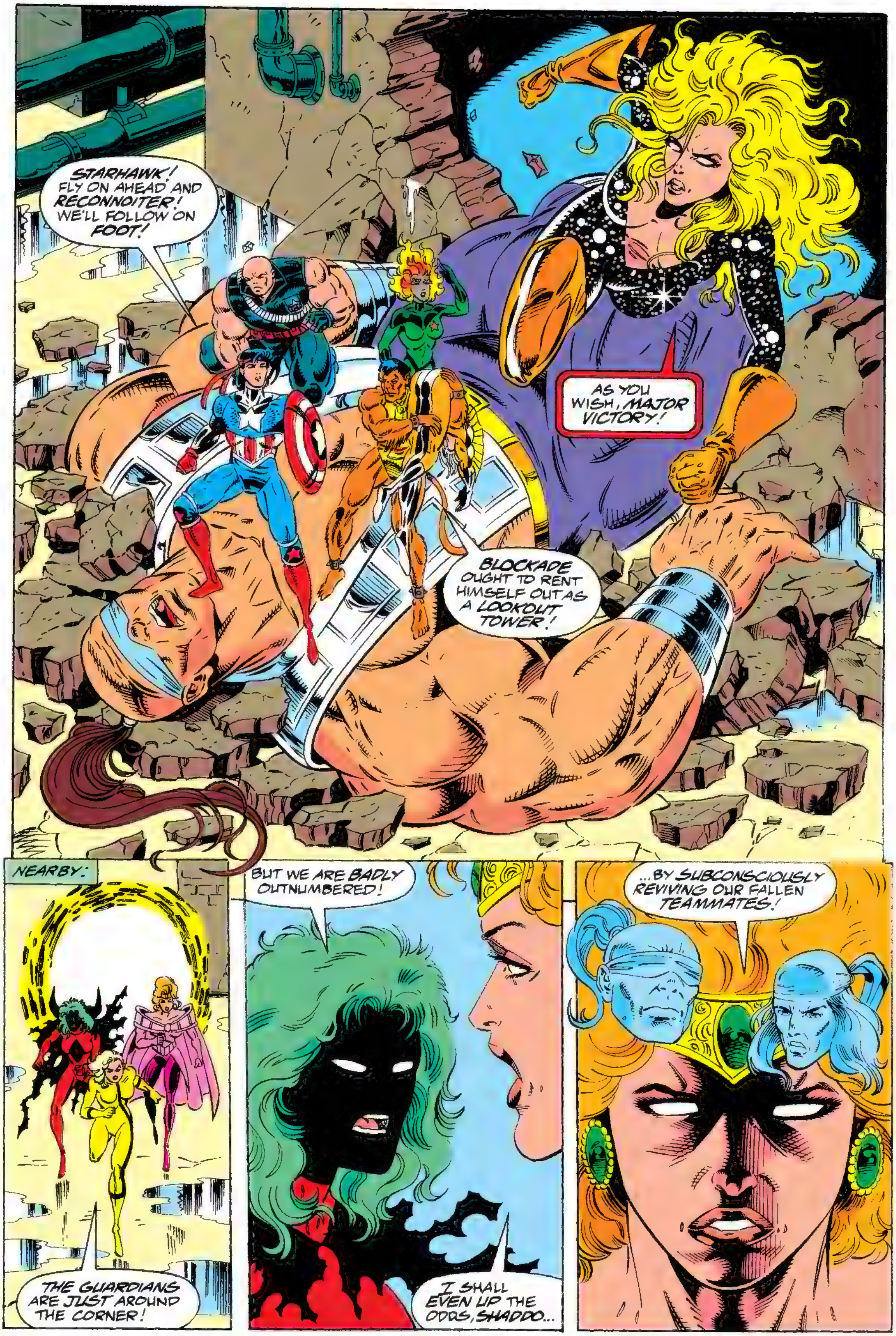
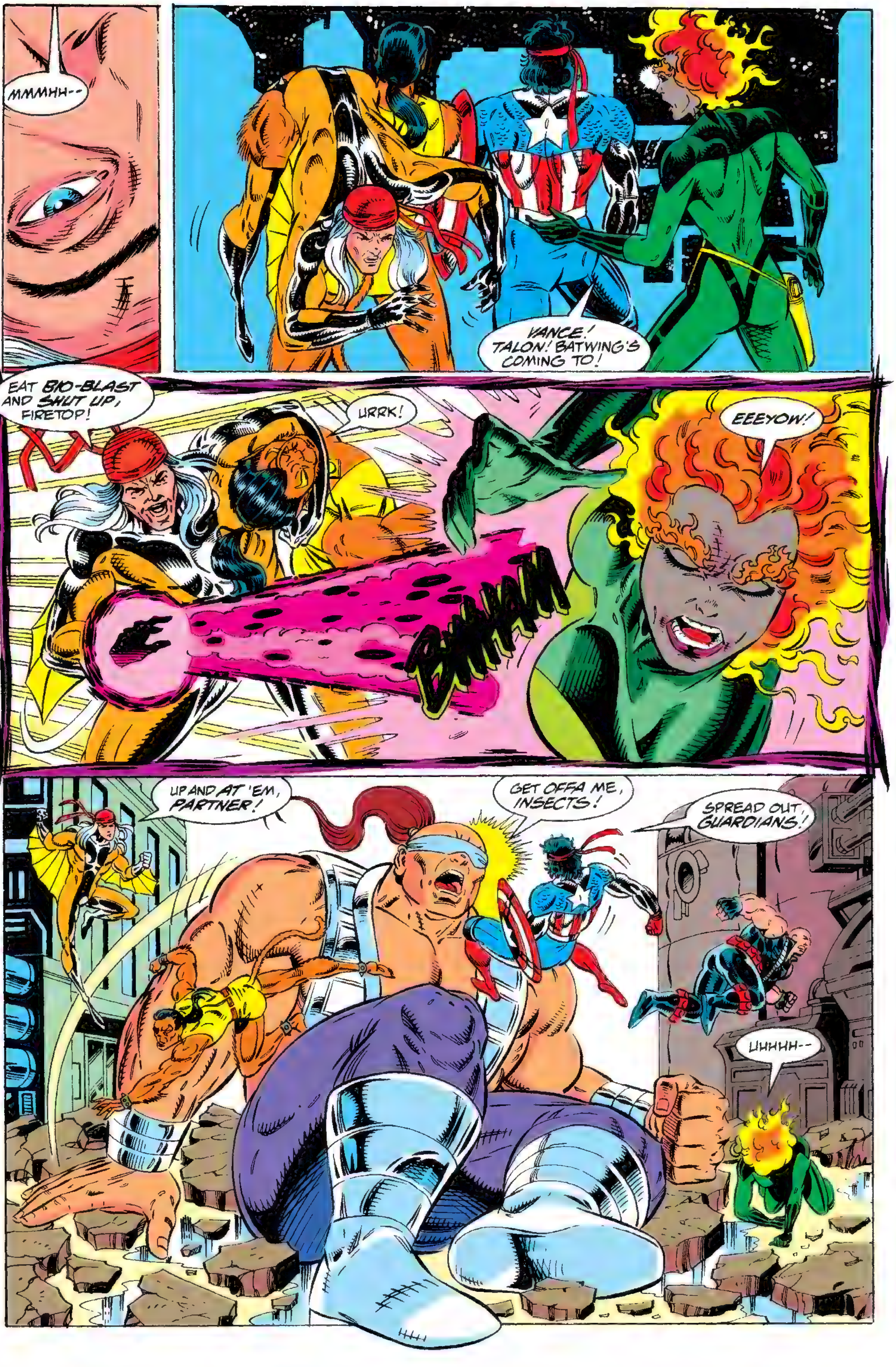

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU'VE PLACED YOUR FOUL HUMAN BRAIN INSIDE LOGAN'S SACRED SKULL AND MICRONICALLY ANIMATED THE SKELETON FOR YOUR OWN USE!
THIS DEBASEMENT IS AN OUTRAGE THAT SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!
RANT AND RAVE, RANCOR-- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO YOU!
LET US SEE WHAT YOUR SKELETON LOOKS LIKE STRIPPED OF ITS FLESH!

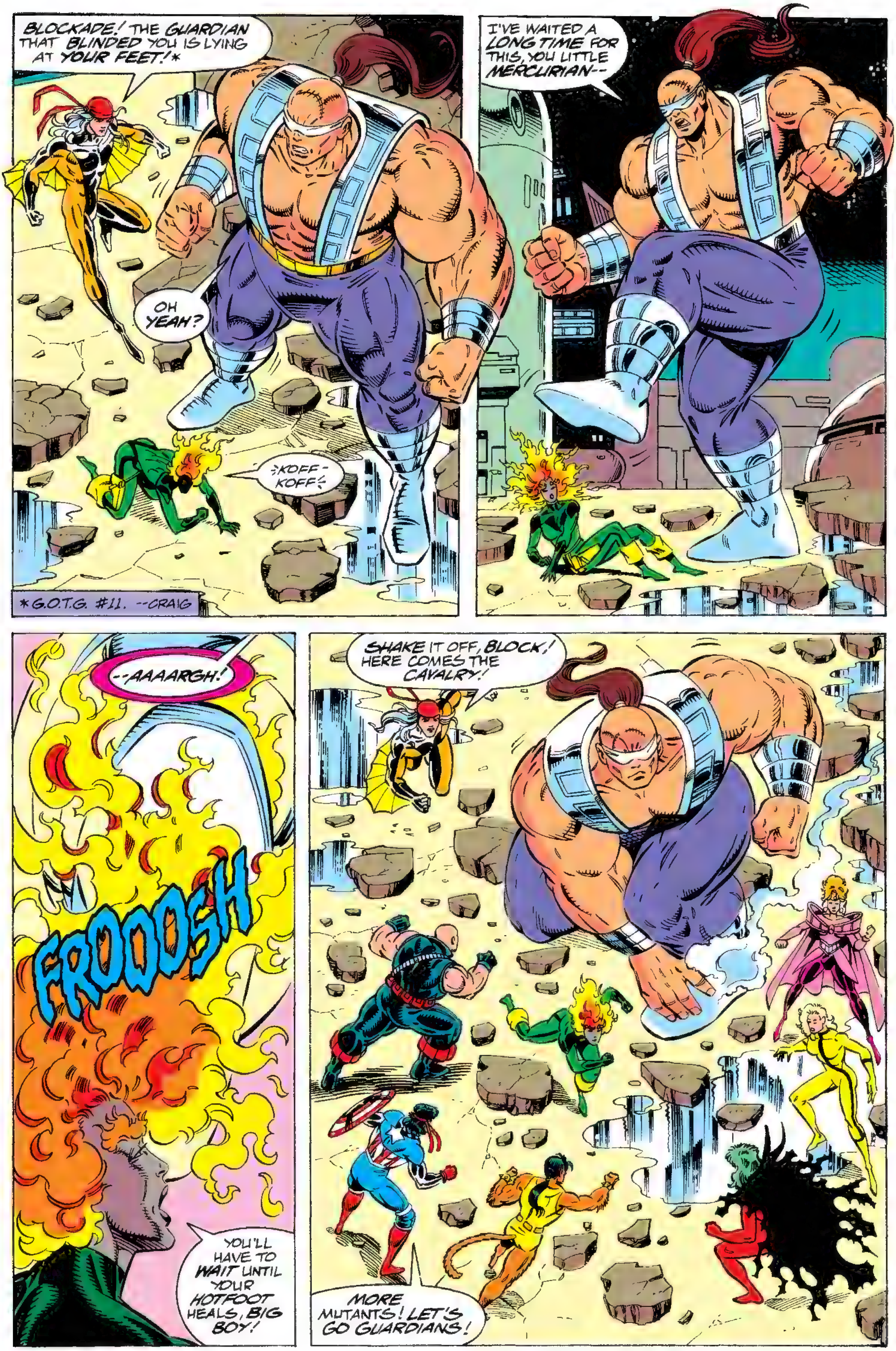

GROWRR!
YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE, WOMAN! SURRENDER!
SHLACK
THAT WORD ISN'T IN MY VOCABULARY, DOOM!
KTRANG
THEN I SHALL TEACH IT TO YOU-- THE HARD WAY!
TAK
TAK
TAK

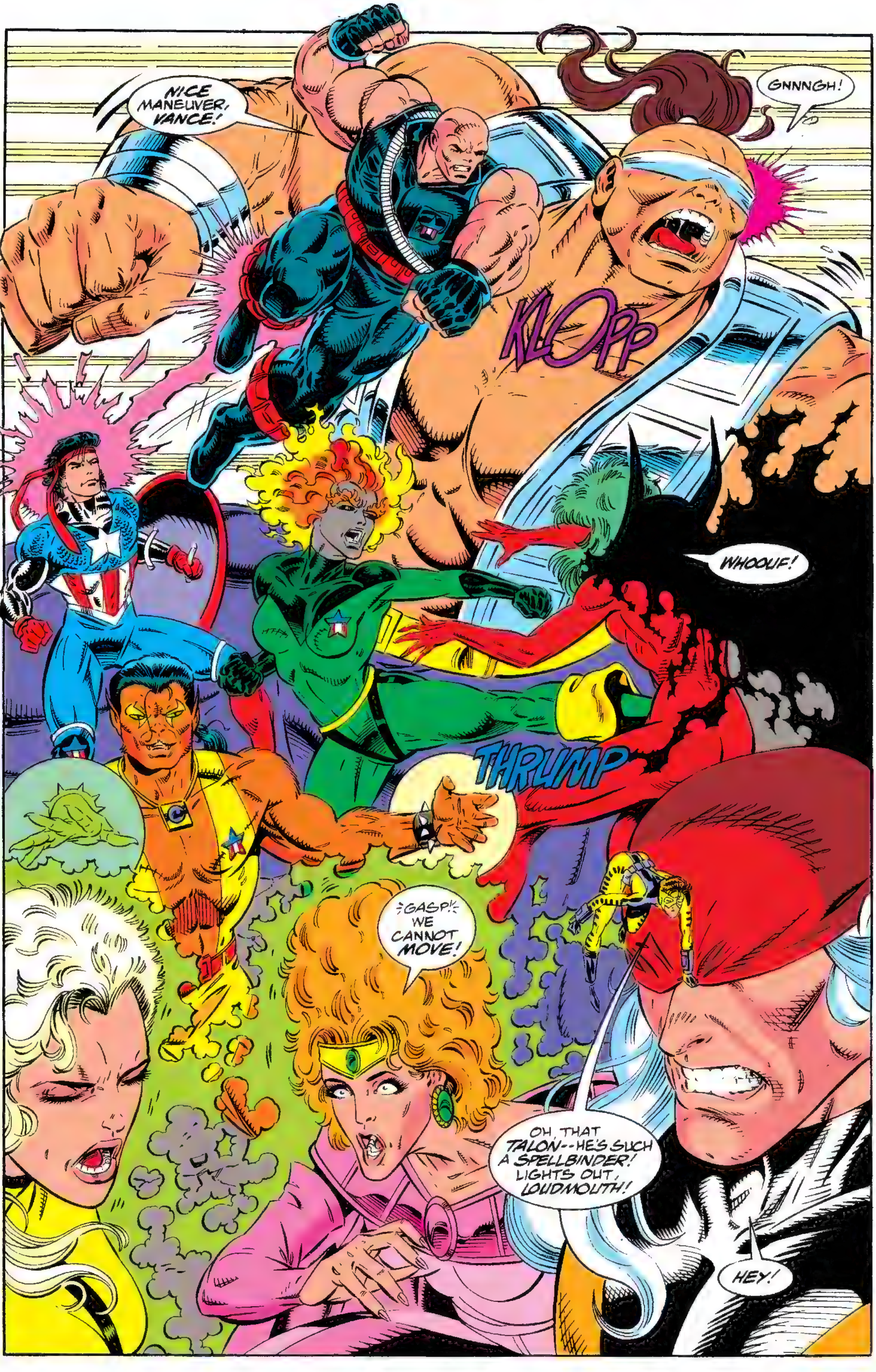

UNSKILLED BRAGGART!
POSSESSING A WEAPON MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO USE IT.
SWOOSH
OBSERVE!
SKREEEAK
FOOL! A HAND-HELD BLOW FROM THE SKELETON'S MISSING CLAW CANNOT DAMAGE ME!
IT IS ADAMANTIUM! IT IS IMPERVIOUS!
BUT YOU ARE NOT!
ARRRRR!
SCHLUKK

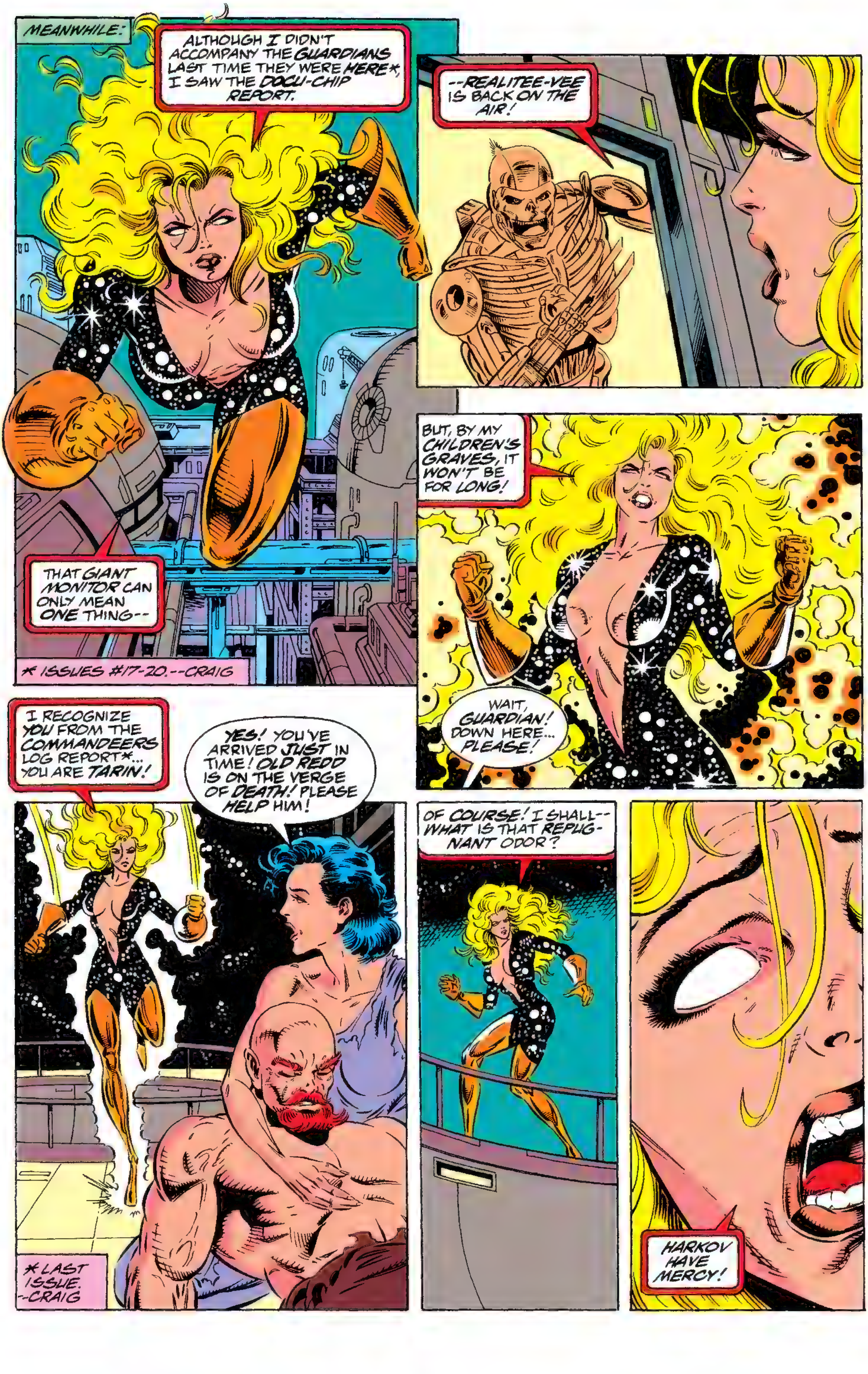

OUTSIDE IN THE SALTEX COMPOUND, THE BATTLE IS BEING BROADCAST FOR ALL TO SEE.
MIND-SCAN! DOOM GUTTED OUR QUEEN! LET ME TELEPORT US UP THERE TO HELP HER!
CUT HER AGAIN!
WOTTA SHOW!
FIVE TO ONE ON THE SKELETON!
NO, SIDE-STEP! I CAN READ RANCOR'S THOUGHTS! SHE WANTS NO ASSISTANCE!
BESIDES, THERE IS ANOTHER SITUATION DEVELOPING THAT REQUIRES OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION...
"...THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ARE INSIDE THE COMPLEX!"

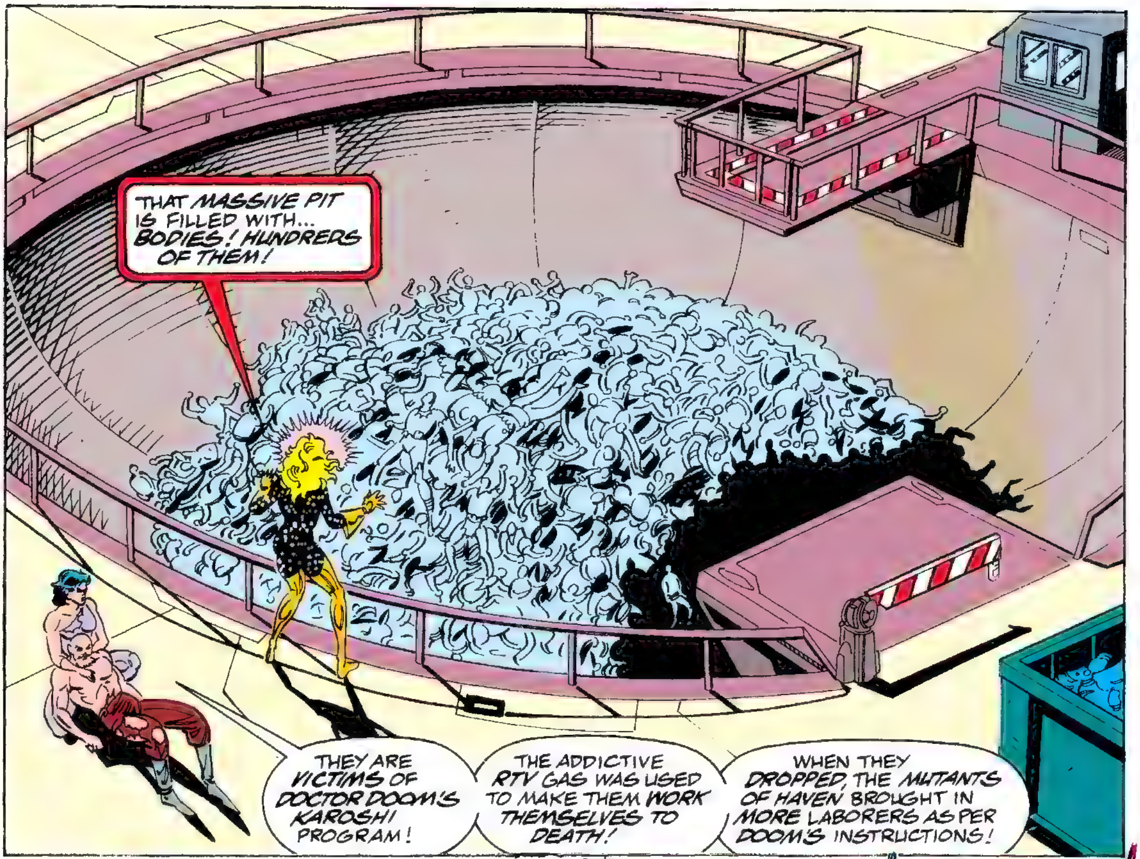

STARHAWK! FLY ON AHEAD AND RECONNOITER! WE'LL FOLLOW ON FOOT!
AS YOU WISH, MAJOR VICTORY!
BLOCKADE OUGHT TO RENT HIMSELF OUT AS A LOOKOUT TOWER!
NEARBY:
THE GUARDIANS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
BUT WE ARE BADLY OUTNUMBERED!
I SHALL EVEN UP THE ODDS, SHADDO...
...BY SUBCONSCIOUSLY REVIVING OUR FALLEN TEAMMATES!

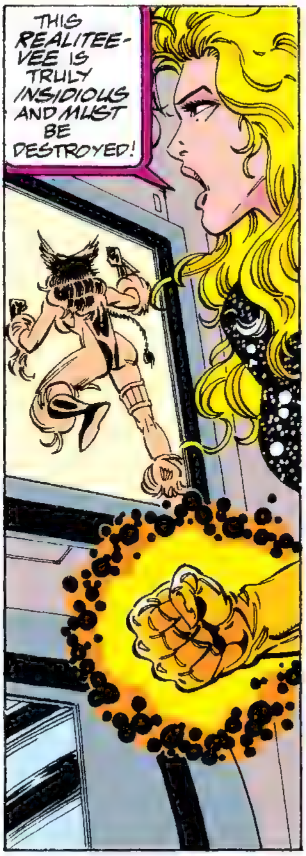

MMMHH--
VANCE! TALON! BATWING'S COMING TO!
EAT BIO-BLAST AND SHUT UP, FIRETOP!
URRK!
EEEYOW!
BWAAAM
UP AND AT 'EM, PARTNER!
GET OFFA ME, INSECTS!
SPREAD OUT, GUARDIANS!
UHHHH--

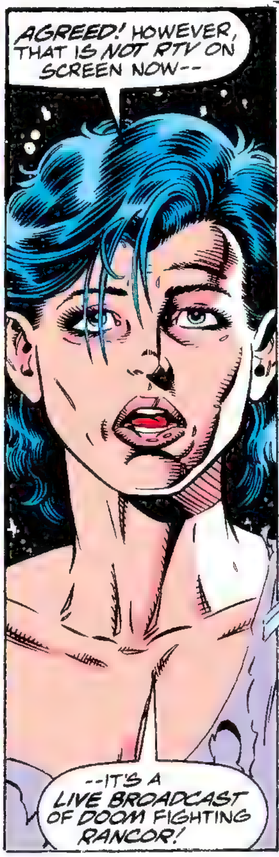

BLOCKADE! THE GUARDIAN THAT BLINDED YOU IS LYING AT YOUR FEET!*
OH YEAH?
KOFF-KOFF
*G.O.T.G. #11. --CRAIG
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, YOU LITTLE MERCURIAN--
--AAAARGH!
FROOOSH
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR HOTFOOT HEALS, BIG BOY!
SHAKE IT OFF, BLOCK! HERE COMES THE CAVALRY!
MORE MUTANTS! LET'S GO GUARDIANS!

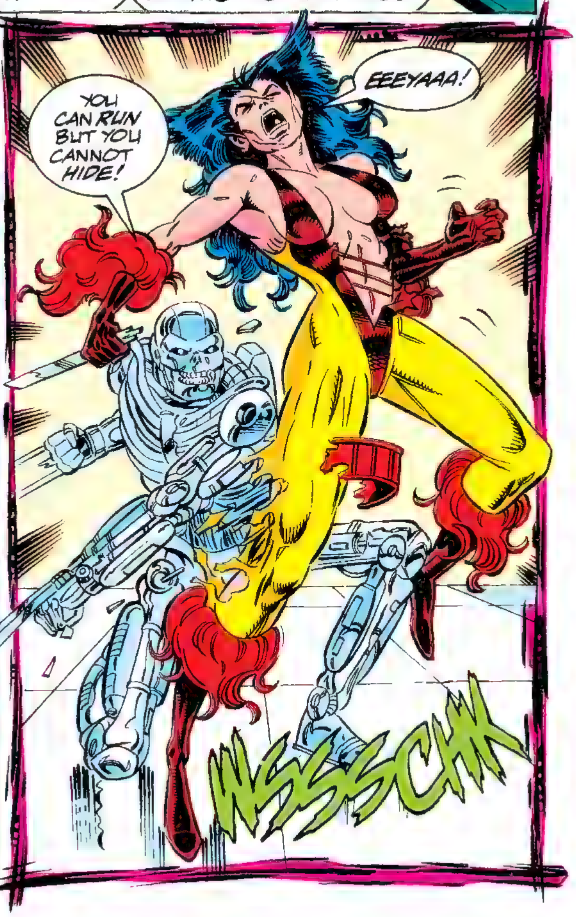

NICE MANEUVER, VANCE!
GNNNGH!
KLOPP
WHOOUF!
THRUMP
GASP! WE CANNOT MOVE!
OH, THAT TALON--HE'S SUCH A SPELLBINDER! LIGHTS OUT, LOUDMOUTH!
HEY!

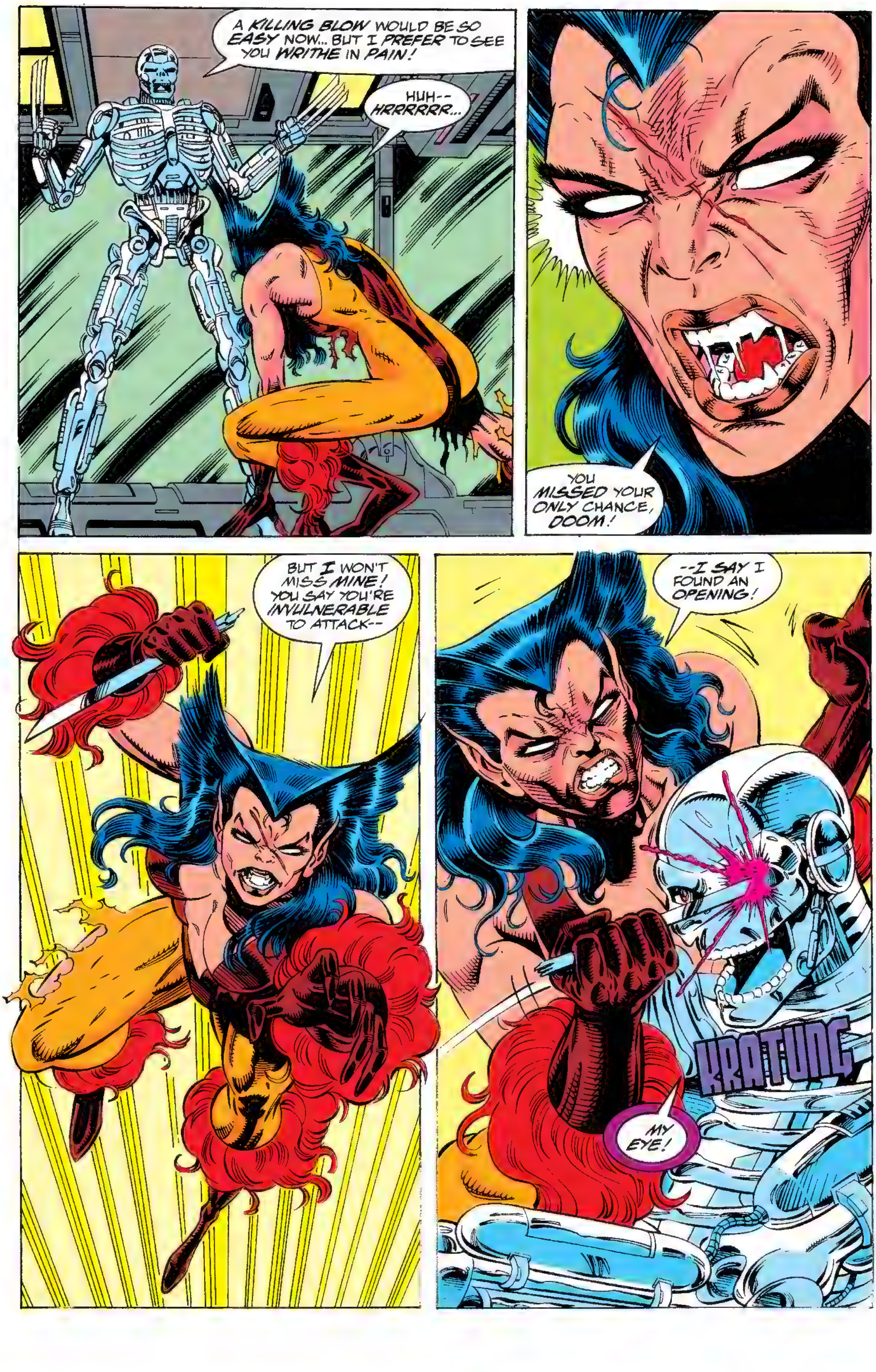

MEANWHILE:
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T ACCOMPANY THE GUARDIANS LAST TIME THEY WERE HERE*, I SAW THE DOCU-CHIP REPORT.
THAT GIANT MONITOR CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING--
* ISSUES #17-20.--CRAIG
--REALITEE-VEE IS BACK ON THE AIR!
BUT, BY MY CHILDREN'S GRAVES, IT WON'T BE FOR LONG!
WAIT, GUARDIAN! DOWN HERE... PLEASE!
I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM THE COMMANDEERS LOG REPORT*... YOU ARE TARIN!
YES! YOU'VE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME! OLD REDD IS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH! PLEASE HELP HIM!
* LAST ISSUE. --CRAIG
OF COURSE! I SHALL-- WHAT IS THAT REPUGNANT ODOR?
HARKOV HAVE MERCY!

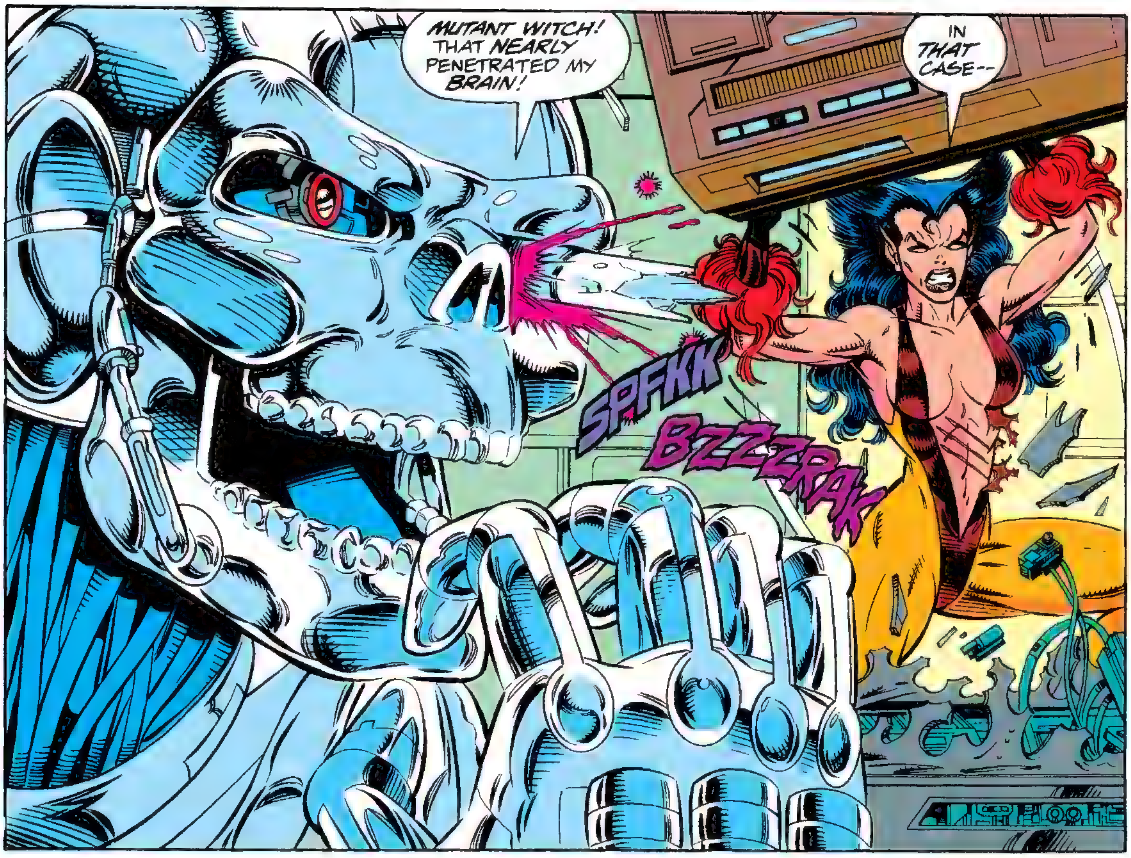

THAT MASSIVE PIT IS FILLED WITH... BODIES! HUNDREDS OF THEM!
THEY ARE VICTIMS OF DOCTOR DOOM'S KAROSHI PROGRAM!
THE ADDICTIVE RTV GAS WAS USED TO MAKE THEM WORK THEMSELVES TO DEATH!
WHEN THEY DROPPED, THE MUTANTS OF HAVEN BROUGHT IN MORE LABORERS AS PER DOOM'S INSTRUCTIONS!

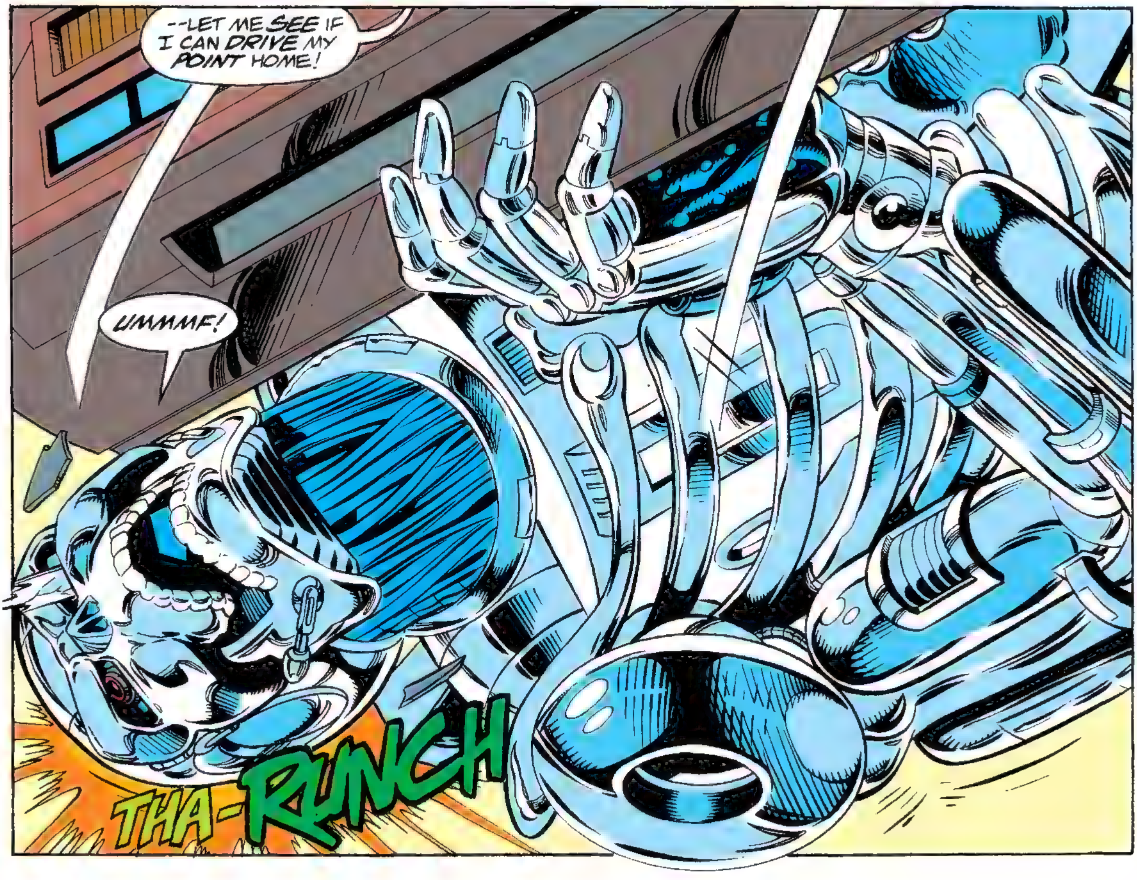

THIS REALITEE-VEE IS TRULY INSIDIOUS AND MUST BE DESTROYED!

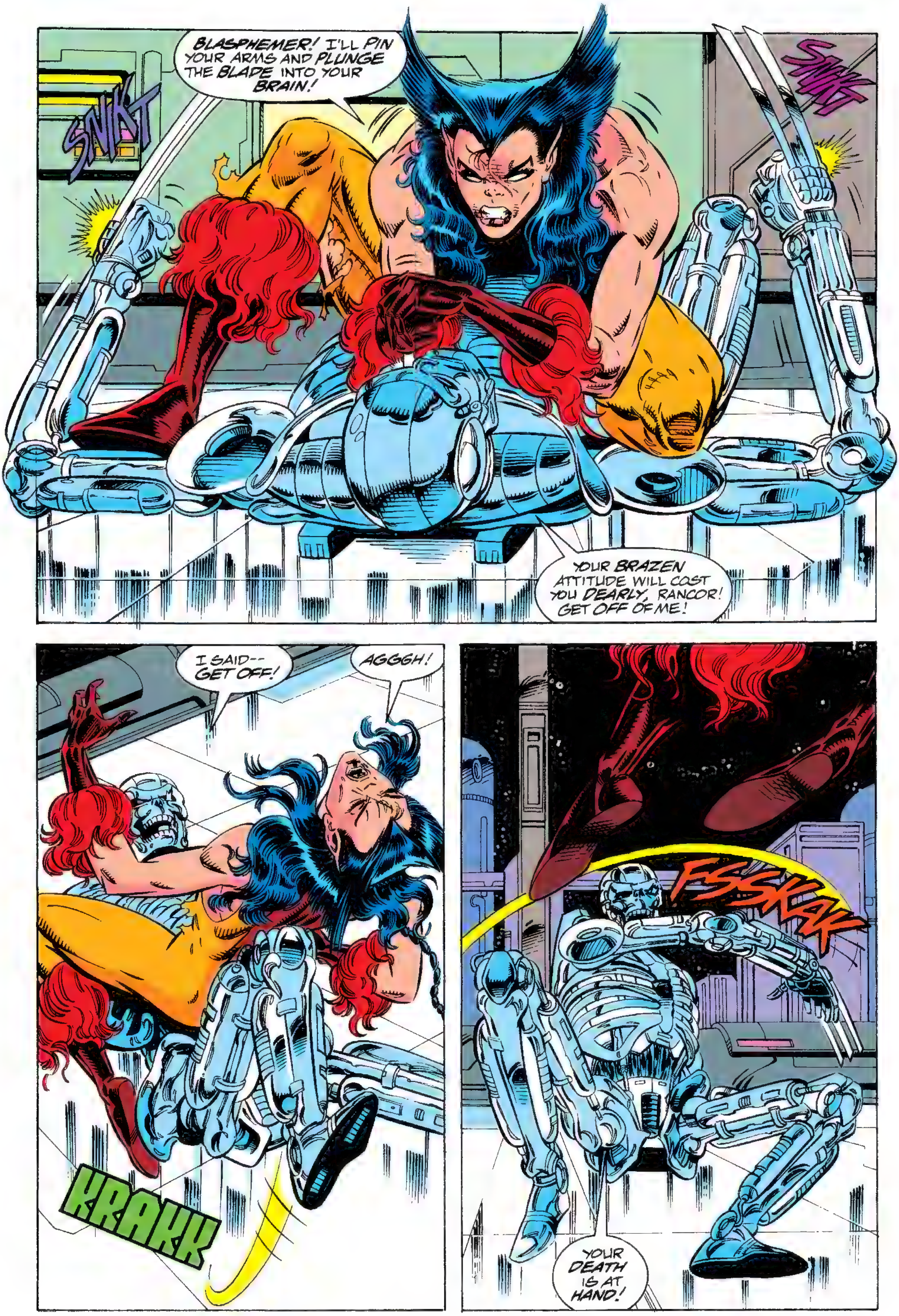

AGREED! HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT RTV ON SCREEN NOW--
--IT'S A LIVE BROADCAST OF DOOM FIGHTING RANCOR!

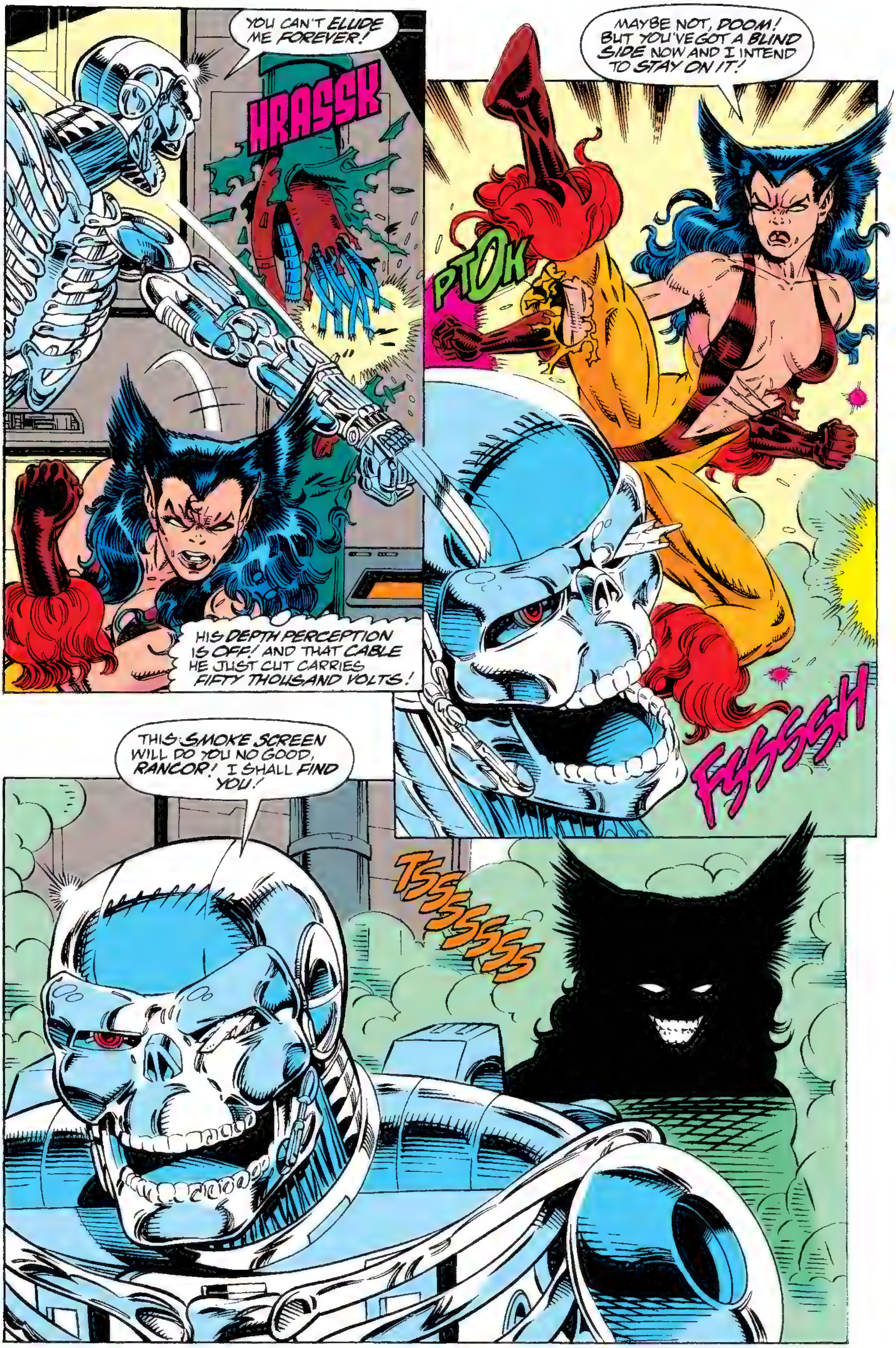

EEEYAAA!
YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CANNOT HIDE!
WSSSCHK

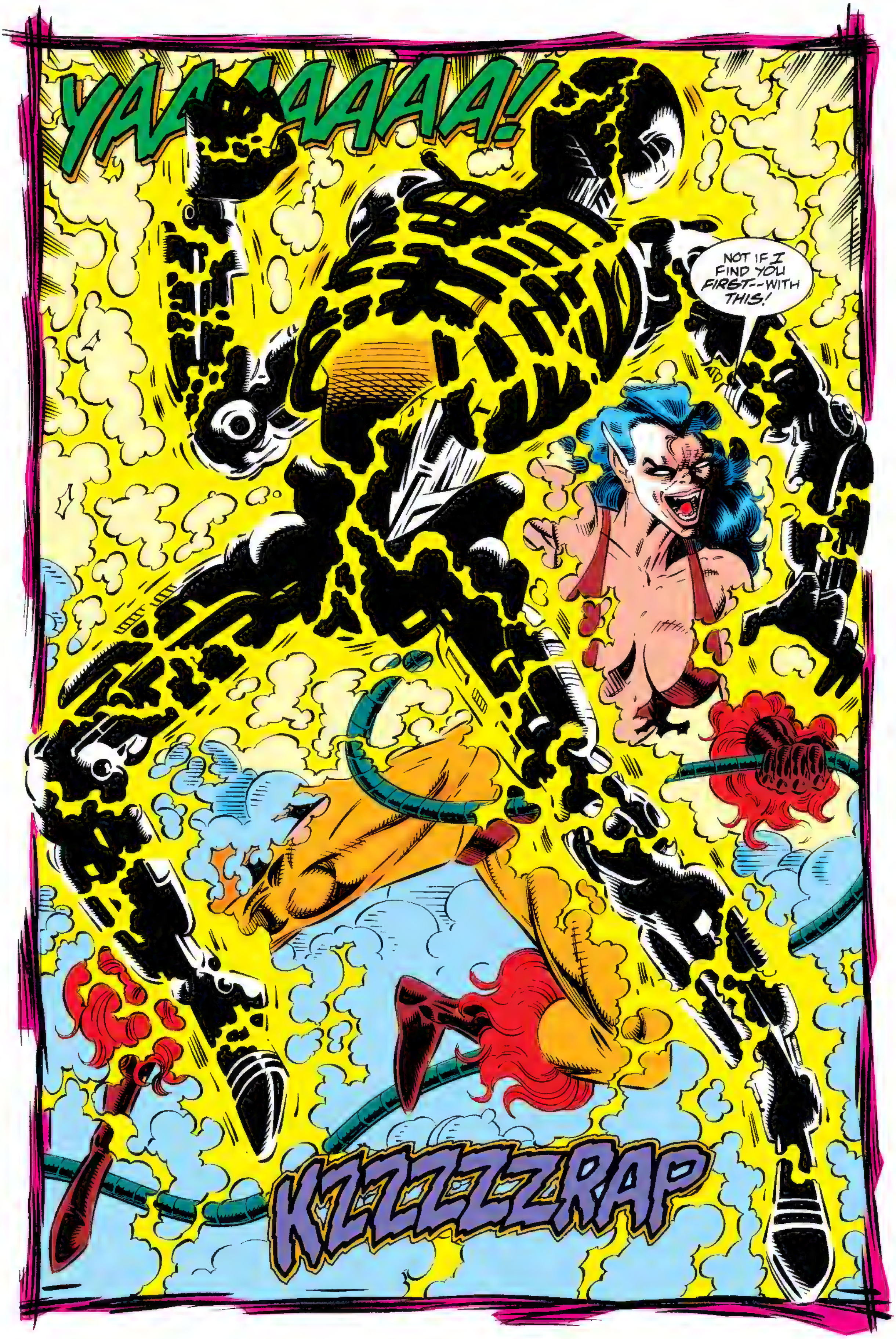

A KILLING BLOW WOULD BE SO EASY NOW... BUT I PREFER TO SEE YOU WRITHE IN PAIN!
HUH-- HRRRRRR...
YOU MISSED YOUR ONLY CHANCE, DOOM!
BUT I WON'T MISS MINE! YOU SAY YOU'RE INVULNERABLE TO ATTACK--
--I SAY I FOUND AN OPENING!
KRATUNG
MY EYE!

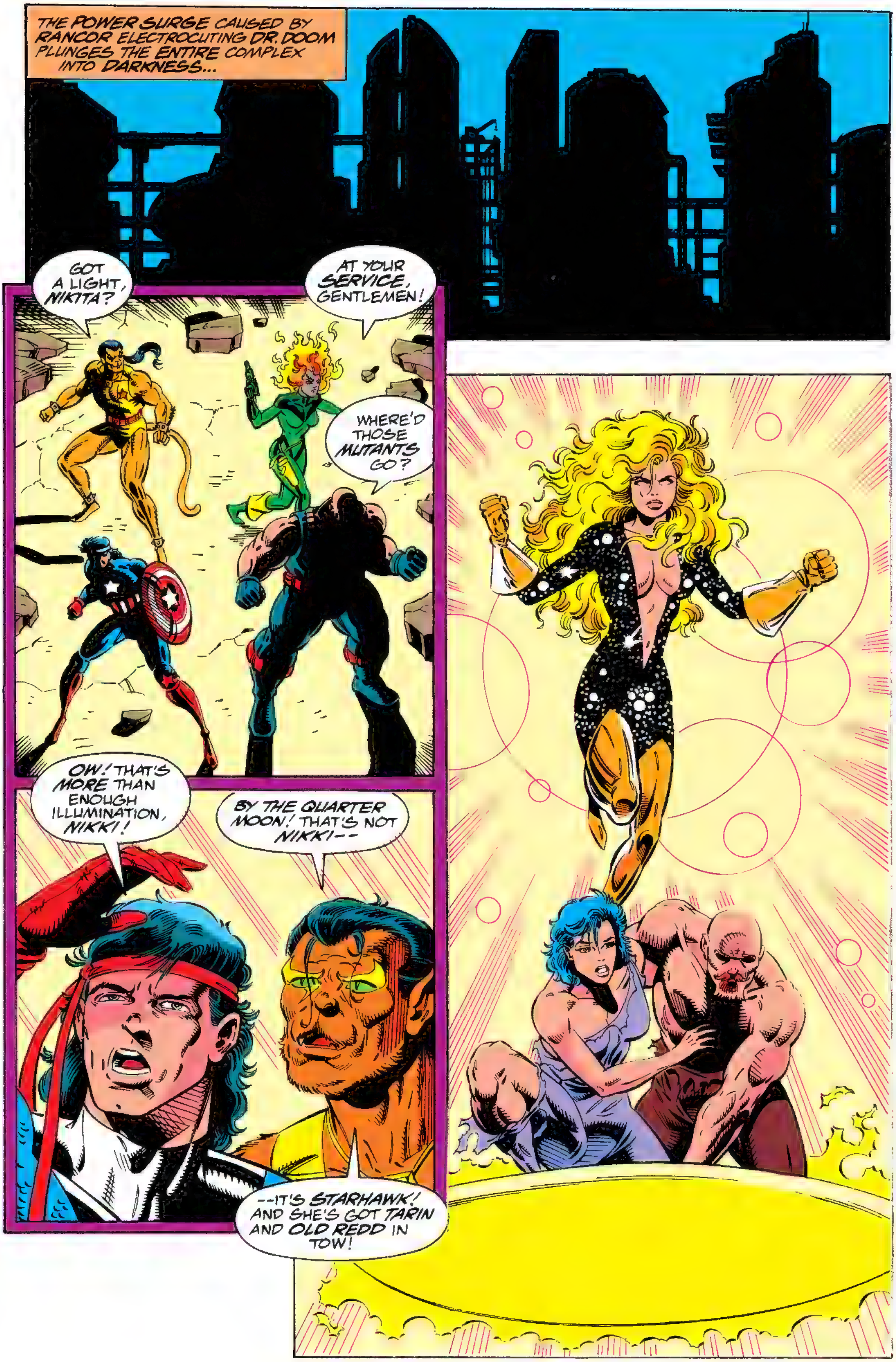

MUTANT WITCH! THAT NEARLY PENETRATED MY BRAIN!
IN THAT CASE--
SPFKK
BZZZRAK

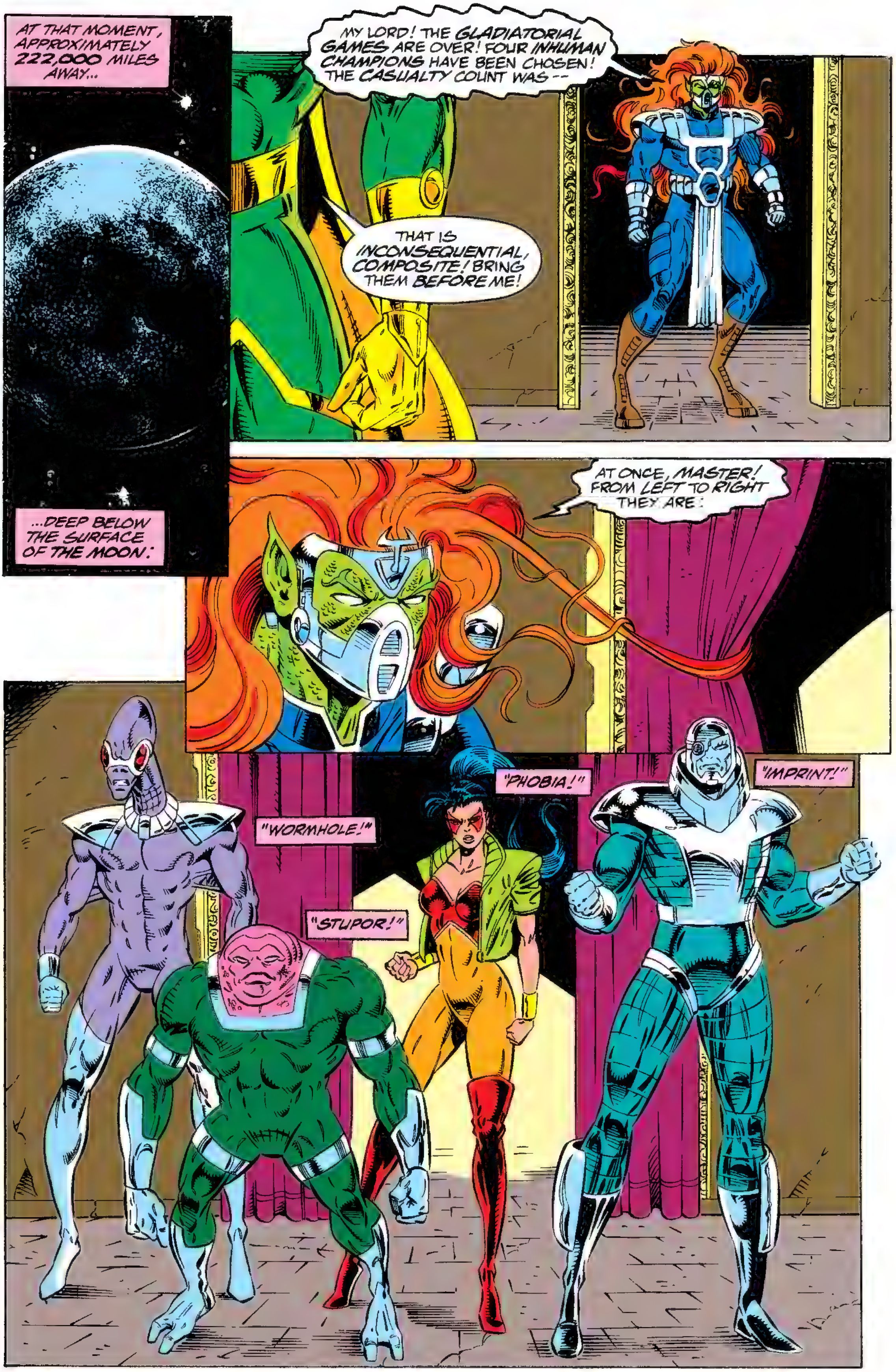

--LET ME SEE IF I CAN DRIVE MY POINT HOME!
UMMMF!
THA-RUNCH

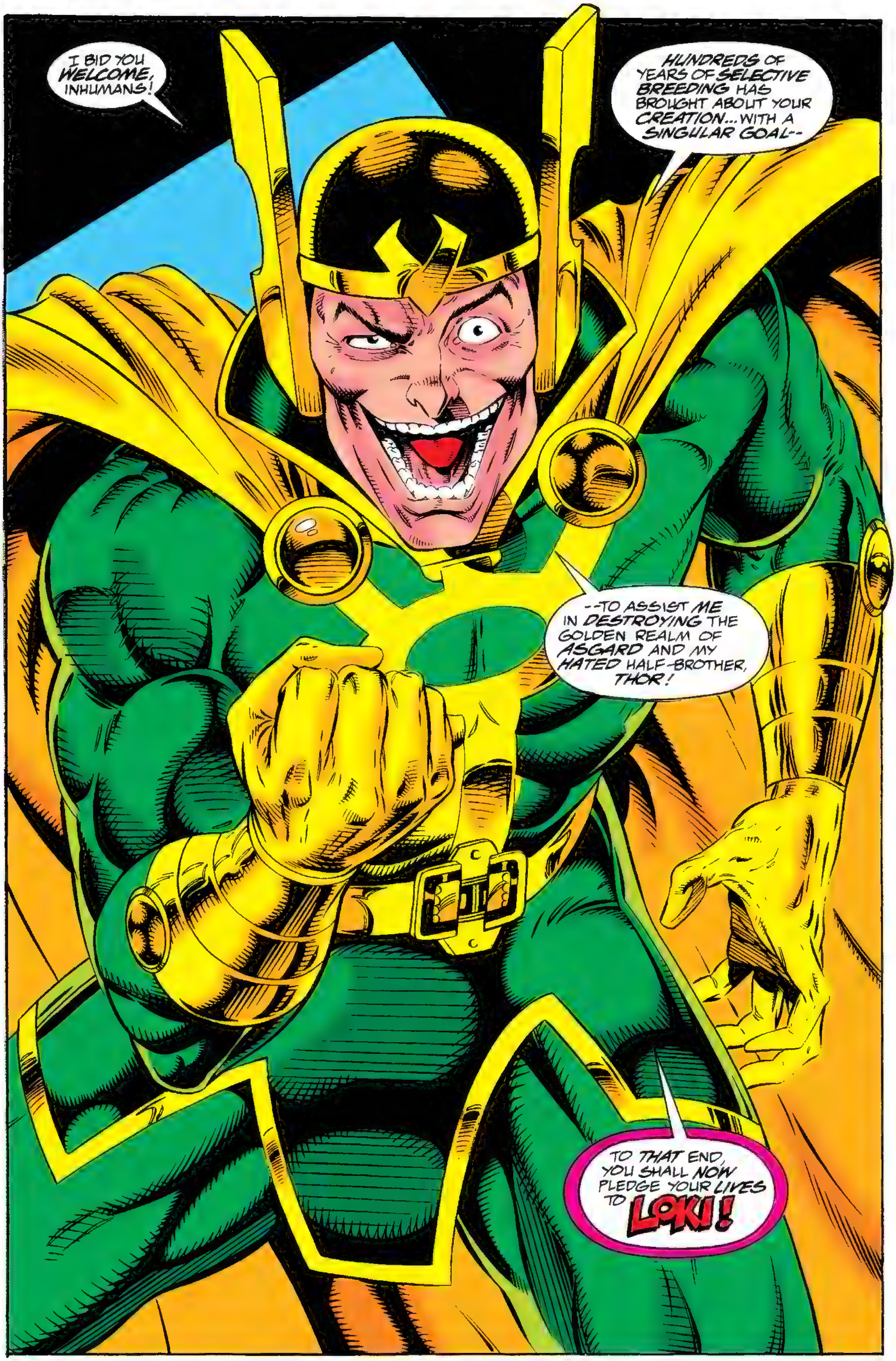

BLASPHEMER! I'LL PIN YOUR ARMS AND PLUNGE THE BLADE INTO YOUR BRAIN!
SNIKT
SNIKT
YOUR BRAZEN ATTITUDE WILL COST YOU DEARLY, RANCOR! GET OFF OF ME!
I SAID-- GET OFF!
AGGGH!
KRAKK
FSSKAK
YOUR DEATH IS AT HAND!

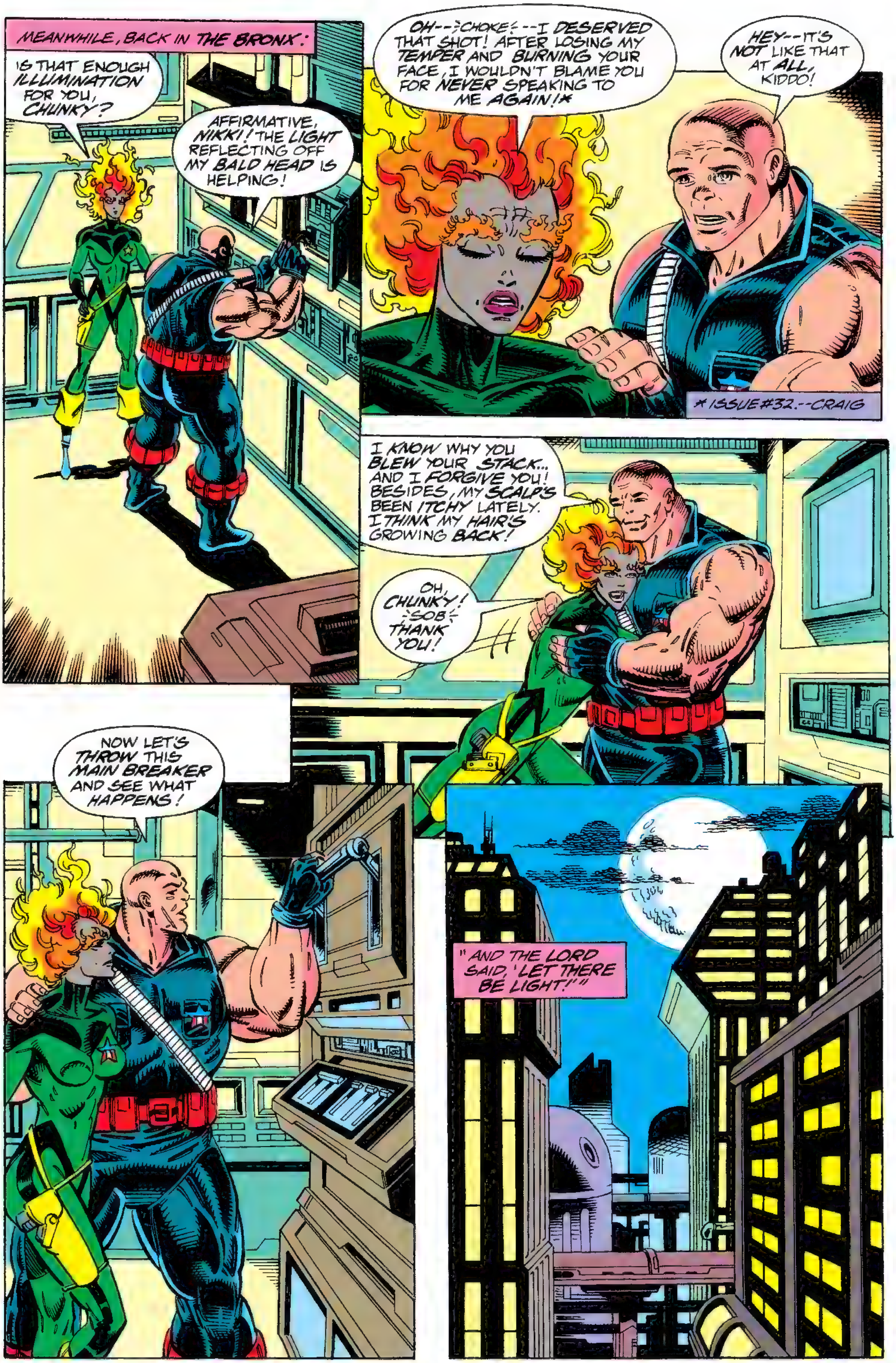

YOU CAN'T *ELUDE* ME *FOREVER!*
HRASSK
HIS *DEPTH PERCEPTION* IS *OFF!* AND THAT *CABLE* HE JUST CUT CARRIES *FIFTY THOUSAND VOLTS!*
MAYBE NOT, *DOOM!* BUT YOU'VE GOT A *BLIND SIDE* NOW AND I INTEND TO *STAY ON IT!*
PTOK
FSSSSH
THIS *SMOKE SCREEN* WILL DO YOU NO GOOD, *RANCOR!* I SHALL *FIND* YOU!
TSSSSSSS

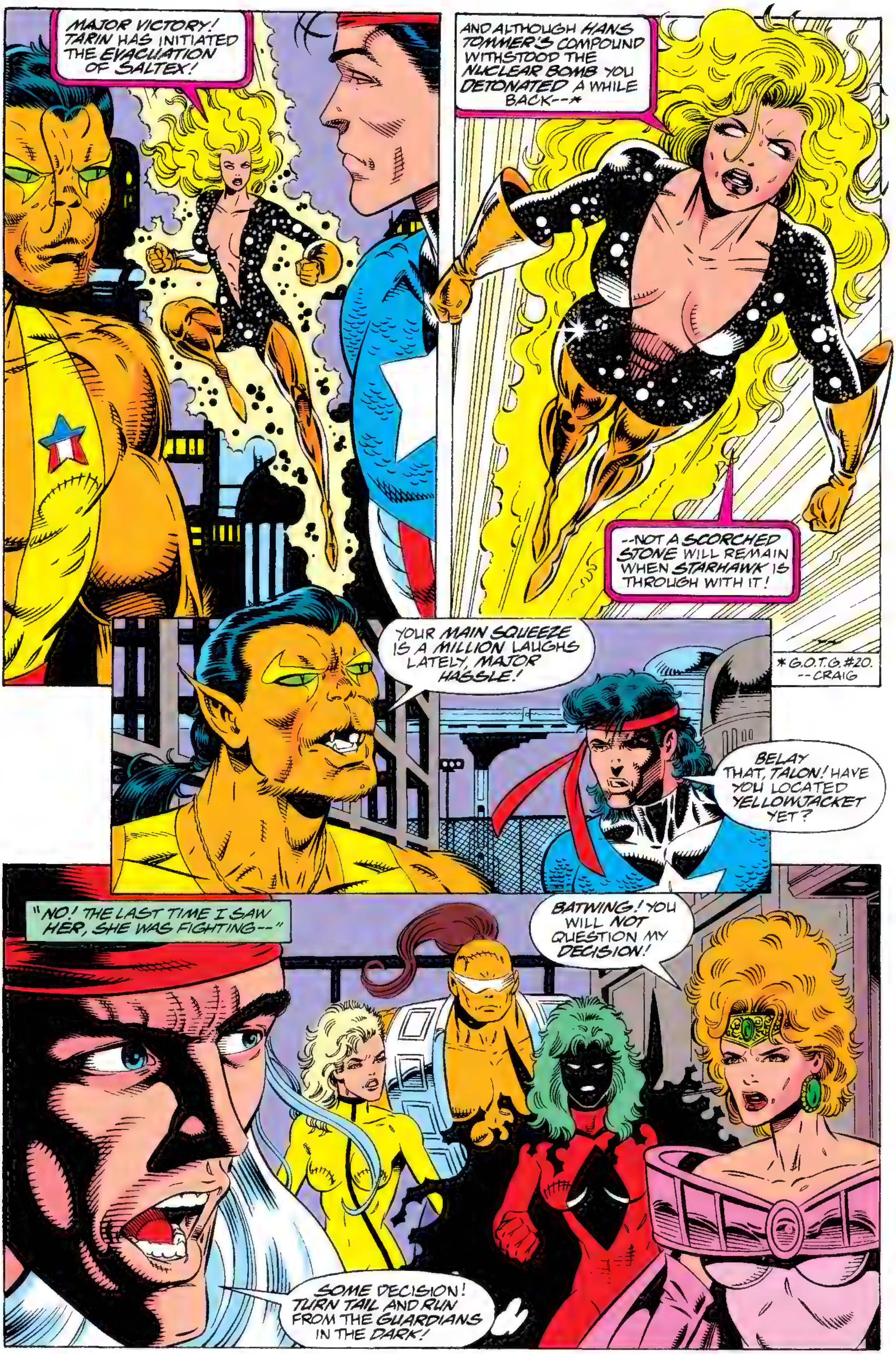

YAAAAAAA!
NOT IF I FIND YOU FIRST--WITH THIS!
KZZZZZZRAP

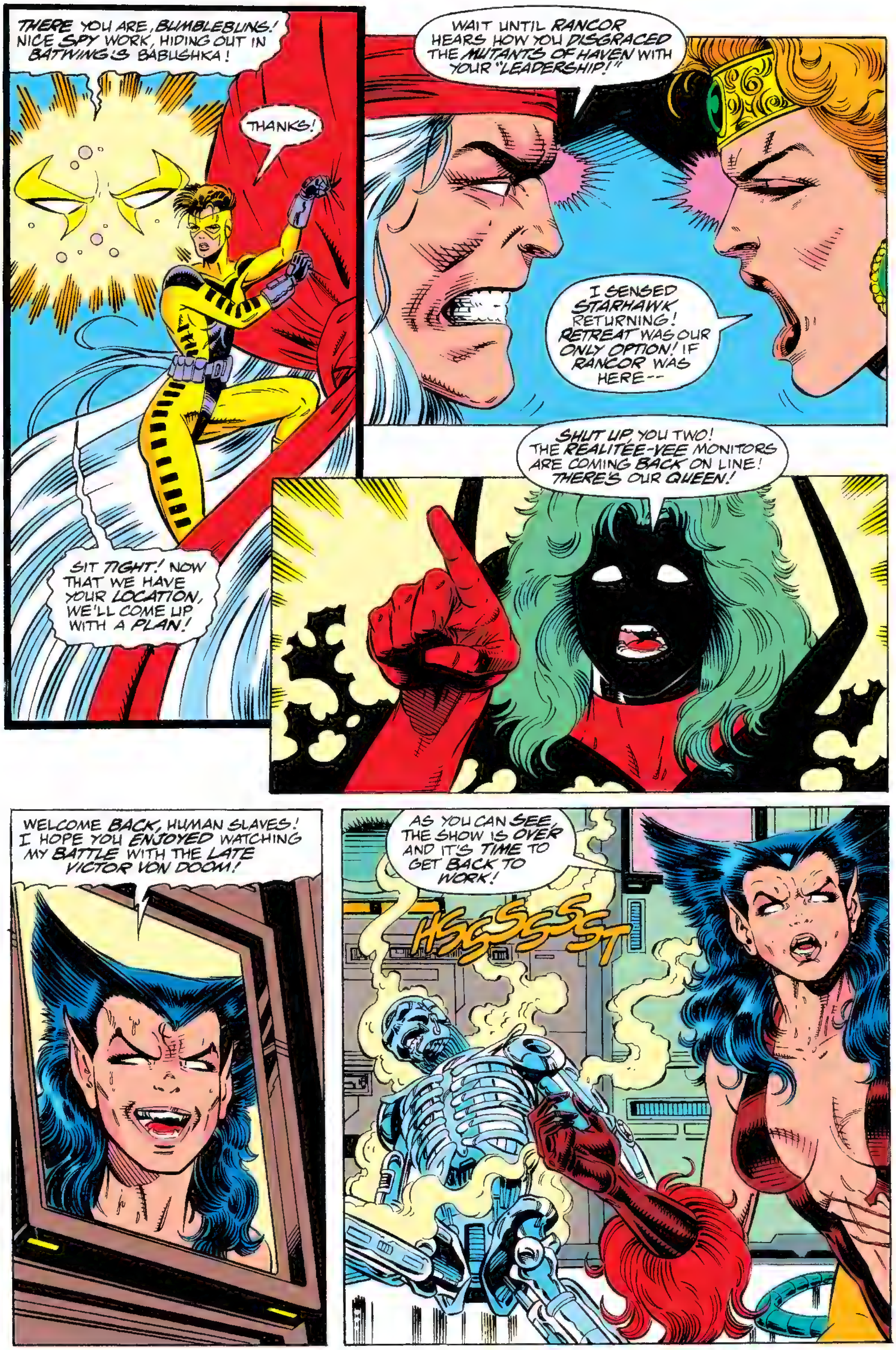

THE POWER SURGE CAUSED BY RANCOR ELECTROCUTING DR. DOOM PLUNGES THE ENTIRE COMPLEX INTO DARKNESS...
GOT A LIGHT, NIKITA?
AT YOUR SERVICE, GENTLEMEN!
WHERE'D THOSE MUTANTS GO?
OW! THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH ILLUMINATION, NIKKI!
BY THE QUARTER MOON! THAT'S NOT NIKKI--
--IT'S STARHAWK! AND SHE'S GOT TARIN AND OLD REDD IN TOW!

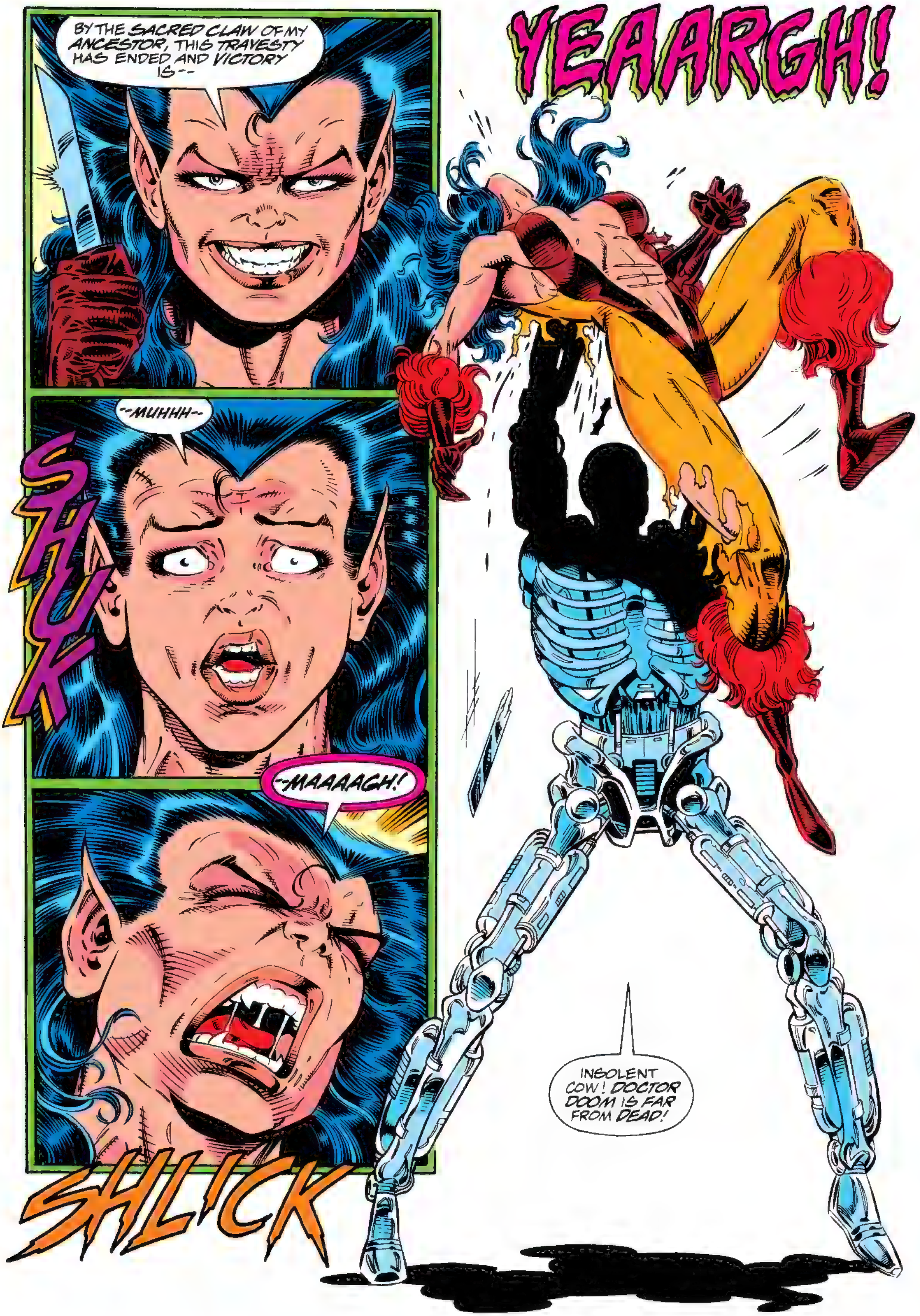

AT THAT MOMENT, APPROXIMATELY 222,000 MILES AWAY...
...DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE MOON:
MY LORD! THE GLADIATORIAL GAMES ARE OVER! FOUR INHUMAN CHAMPIONS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN! THE CASUALTY COUNT WAS--
THAT IS INCONSEQUENTIAL, COMPOSITE! BRING THEM BEFORE ME!
AT ONCE, MASTER! FROM LEFT TO RIGHT THEY ARE:
"WORMHOLE!"
"STUPOR!"
"PHOBIA!"
"IMPRINT!"

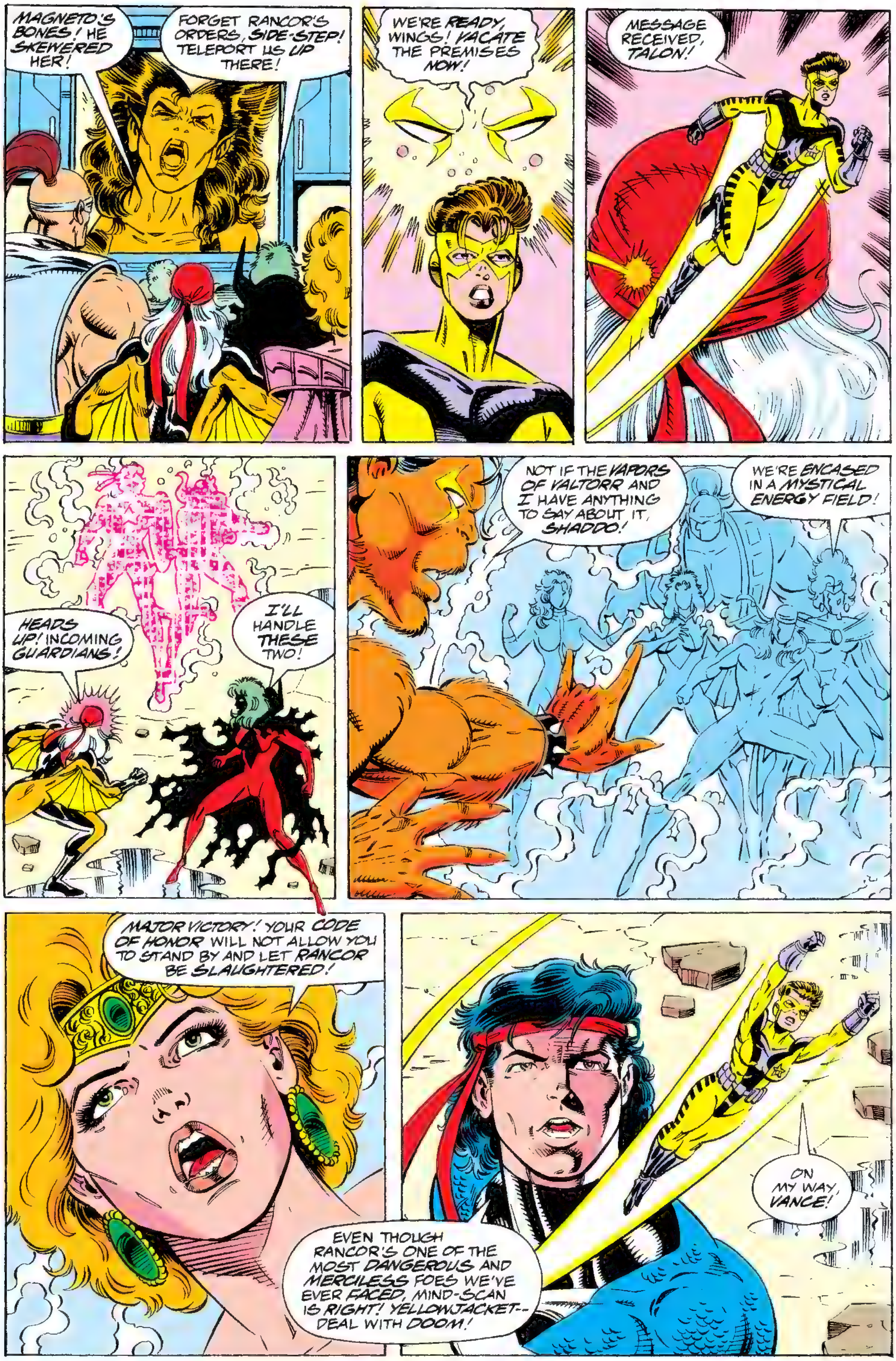

I BID YOU *WELCOME*, INHUMANS!
HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF *SELECTIVE BREEDING* HAS BROUGHT ABOUT YOUR *CREATION*... WITH A *SINGULAR GOAL*--
--TO ASSIST *ME* IN *DESTROYING* THE GOLDEN REALM OF *ASGARD* AND MY *HATED* HALF-BROTHER, *THOR*!
TO *THAT* END, YOU SHALL *NOW* PLEDGE YOUR *LIVES* TO **LOKI**!

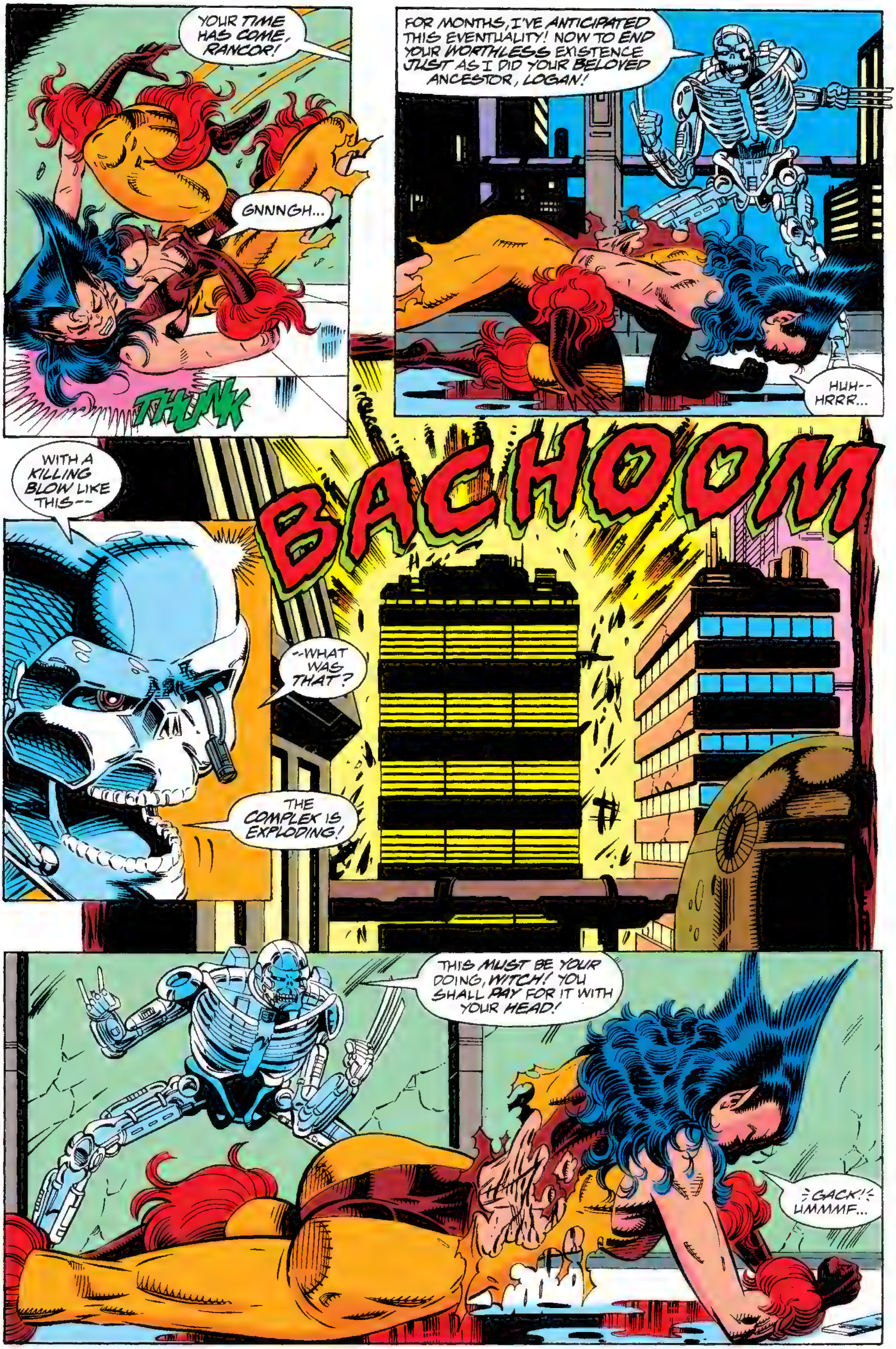

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE BRONX:
IS THAT ENOUGH ILLUMINATION FOR YOU, CHUNKY?
AFFIRMATIVE, NIKKI! THE LIGHT REFLECTING OFF MY BALD HEAD IS HELPING!
OH--CHOKE--I DESERVED THAT SHOT! AFTER LOSING MY TEMPER AND BURNING YOUR FACE, I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU FOR NEVER SPEAKING TO ME AGAIN!*
HEY--IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL, KIDDO!
*ISSUE #32.--CRAIG
I KNOW WHY YOU BLEW YOUR STACK... AND I FORGIVE YOU! BESIDES, MY SCALP'S BEEN ITCHY LATELY. I THINK MY HAIR'S GROWING BACK!
OH, CHUNKY! SOB THANK YOU!
NOW LET'S THROW THIS MAIN BREAKER AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
"AND THE LORD SAID, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT!'"

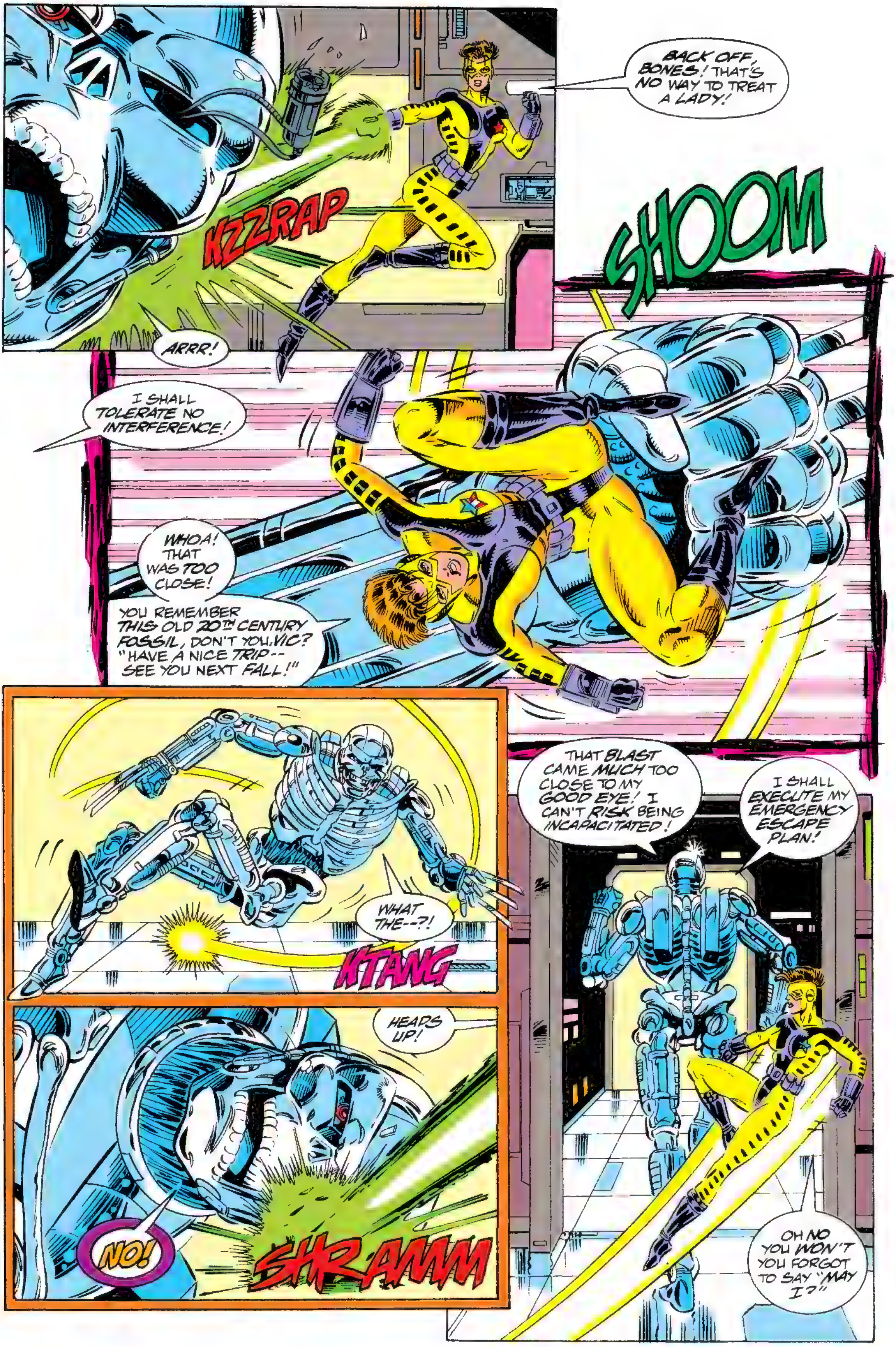

MAJOR VICTORY! TARIN HAS INITIATED THE EVACUATION OF SALTEX!
AND ALTHOUGH HANS TOMMER'S COMPOUND WITHSTOOD THE NUCLEAR BOMB YOU DETONATED A WHILE BACK--*
--NOT A SCORCHED STONE WILL REMAIN WHEN STARHAWK IS THROUGH WITH IT!
* G.O.T.G. #20. --CRAIG
YOUR MAIN SQUEEZE IS A MILLION LAUGHS LATELY, MAJOR HASSLE!
BELAY THAT, TALON! HAVE YOU LOCATED YELLOWJACKET YET?
"NO! THE LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE WAS FIGHTING--"
BATWING! YOU WILL NOT QUESTION MY DECISION!
SOME DECISION! TURN TAIL AND RUN FROM THE GUARDIANS IN THE DARK!

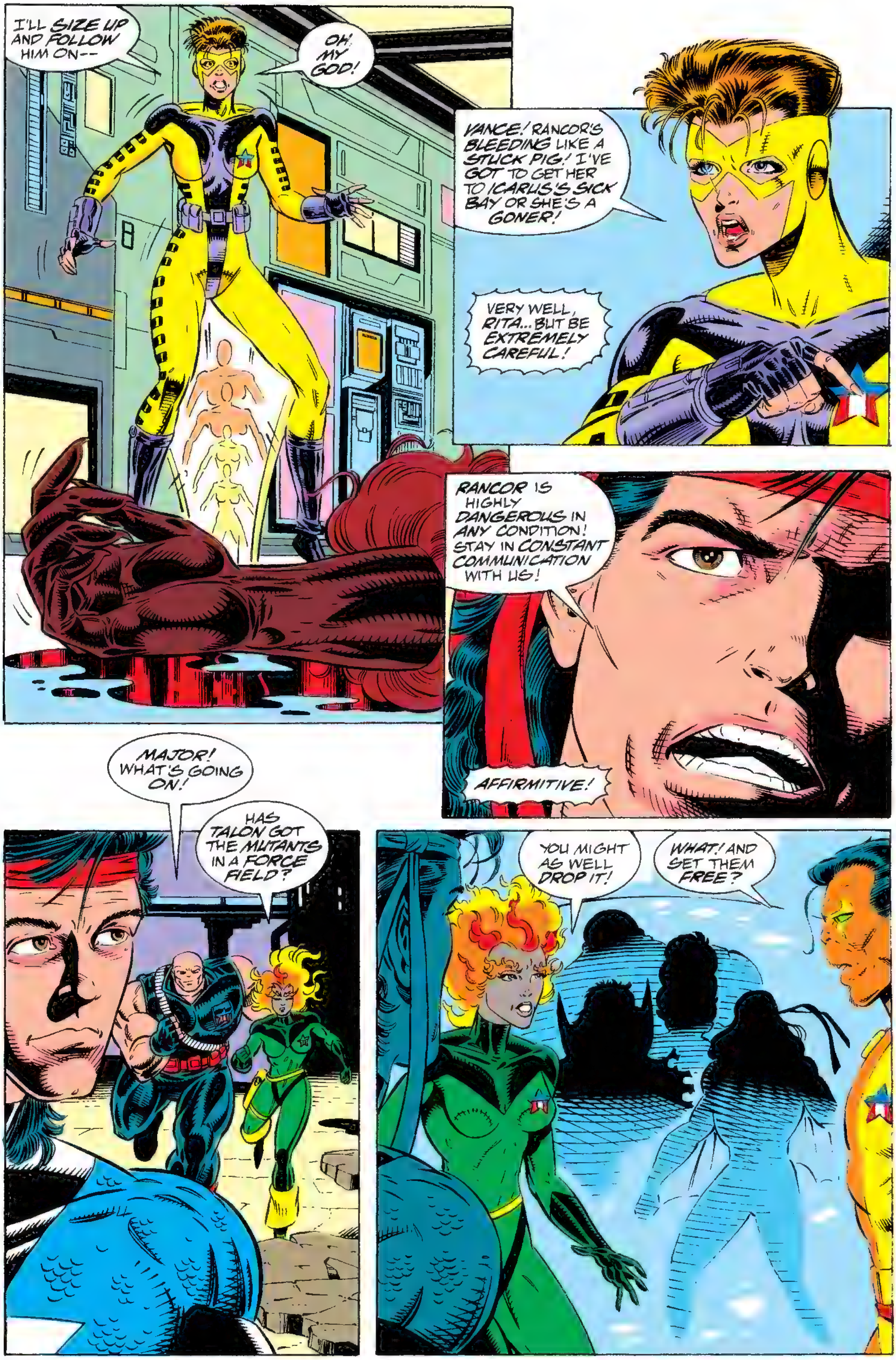

THERE YOU ARE, BUMBLEBUNS! NICE SPY WORK, HIDING OUT IN BATWING'S BABUSHKA!
THANKS!
WAIT UNTIL RANCOR HEARS HOW YOU DISGRACED THE MUTANTS OF HAVEN WITH YOUR "LEADERSHIP!"
I SENSED STARHAWK RETURNING! RETREAT WAS OUR ONLY OPTION! IF RANCOR WAS HERE--
SIT TIGHT! NOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR LOCATION, WE'LL COME UP WITH A PLAN!
SHUT UP, YOU TWO! THE REALITEE-VEE MONITORS ARE COMING BACK ON LINE! THERE'S OUR QUEEN!
WELCOME BACK, HUMAN SLAVES! I HOPE YOU ENJOYED WATCHING MY BATTLE WITH THE LATE VICTOR VON DOOM!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SHOW IS OVER AND IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK!
HSSSSSST

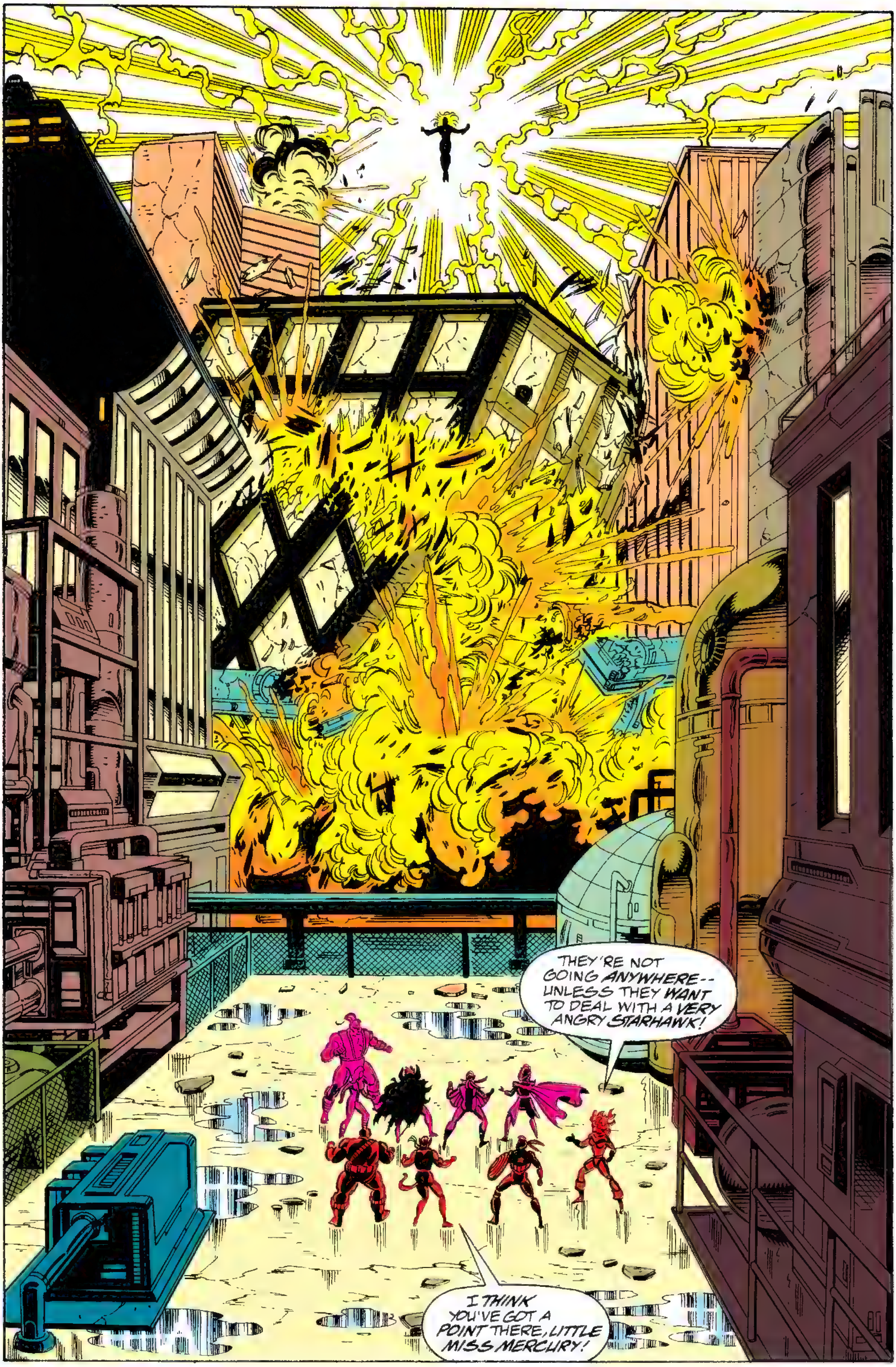

BY THE SACRED CLAW OF MY ANCESTOR, THIS TRAVESTY HAS ENDED AND VICTORY IS--
YEAARGH!
--MUHHH--
SHUK
--MAAAAGH!
INSOLENT COW! DOCTOR DOOM IS FAR FROM DEAD!
SHLICK

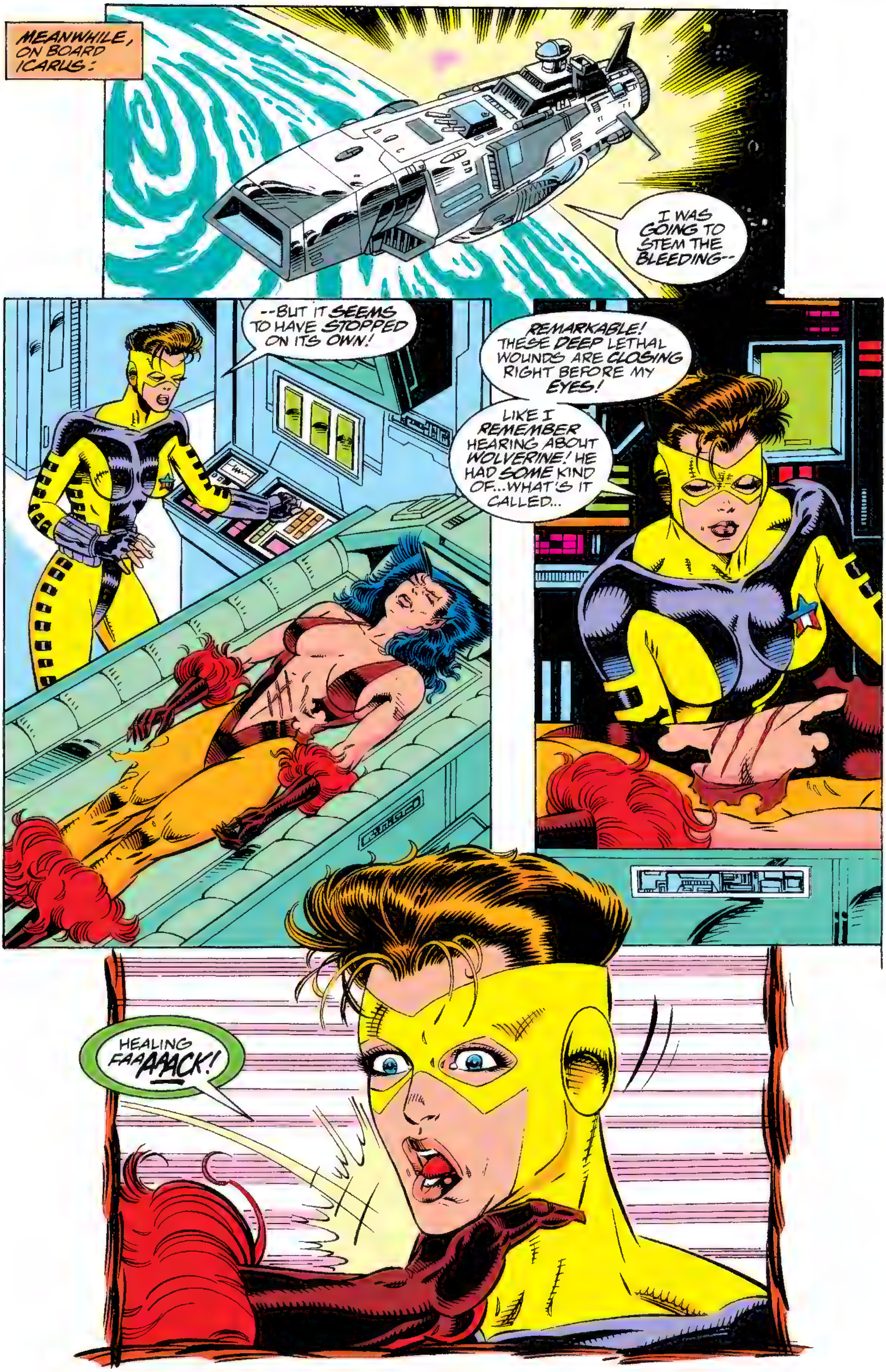

MAGNETO'S BONES! HE SKEWERED HER!
FORGET RANCOR'S ORDERS, SIDE-STEP! TELEPORT US UP THERE!
WE'RE READY, WINGS! VACATE THE PREMISES NOW!
MESSAGE RECEIVED, TALON!
HEADS UP! INCOMING GUARDIANS!
I'LL HANDLE THESE TWO!
NOT IF THE VAPORS OF VALTORR AND I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, SHADDO!
WE'RE ENCASED IN A MYSTICAL ENERGY FIELD!
MAJOR VICTORY! YOUR CODE OF HONOR WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO STAND BY AND LET RANCOR BE SLAUGHTERED!
EVEN THOUGH RANCOR'S ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND MERCILESS FOES WE'VE EVER FACED, MIND-SCAN IS RIGHT! YELLOWJACKET-- DEAL WITH DOOM!
ON MY WAY, VANCE!

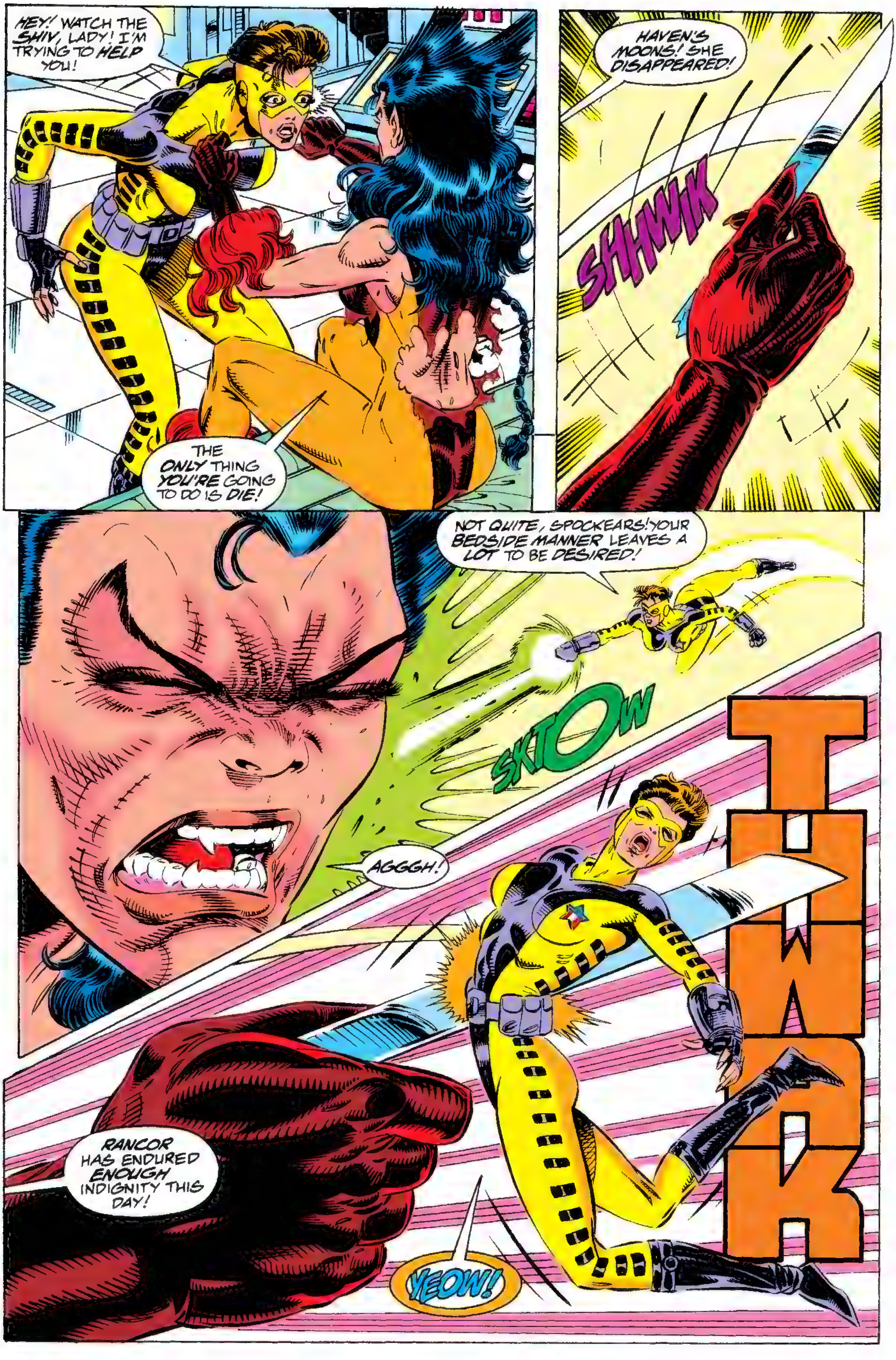

YOUR TIME HAS COME, RANCOR!
GNNNGH...
THUNK
FOR MONTHS, I'VE ANTICIPATED THIS EVENTUALITY! NOW TO END YOUR WORTHLESS EXISTENCE JUST AS I DID YOUR BELOVED ANCESTOR, LOGAN!
HUH-- HRRR...
WITH A KILLING BLOW LIKE THIS--
BACHOOM
--WHAT WAS THAT?
THE COMPLEX IS EXPLODING!
THIS MUST BE YOUR DOING, WITCH! YOU SHALL PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR HEAD!
GACK! UMMMF...

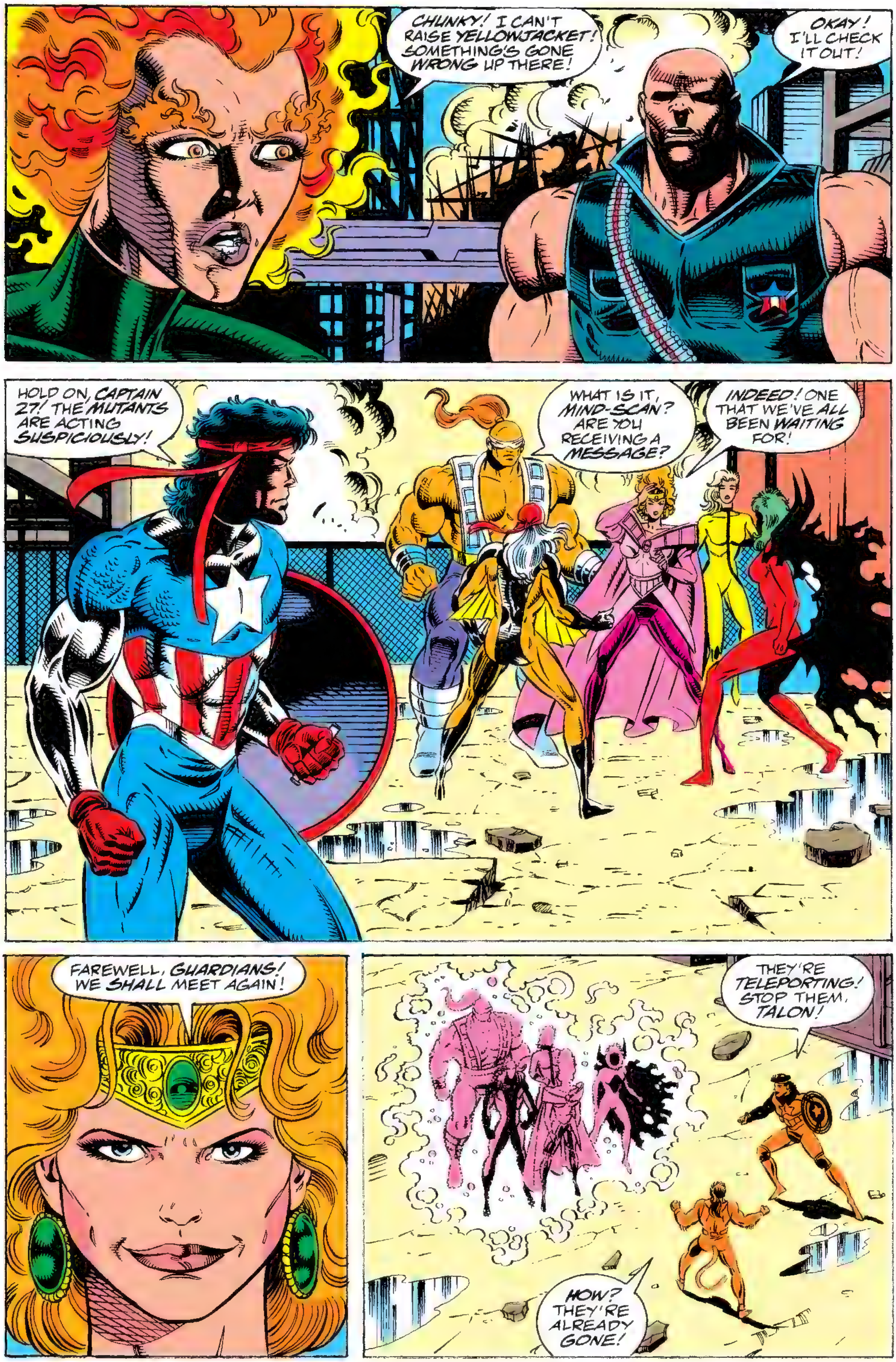

BACK OFF, BONES! THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY!
KZZRAP
ARRR!
SHOOM
I SHALL TOLERATE NO INTERFERENCE!
WHOA! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
YOU REMEMBER THIS OLD 20TH CENTURY FOSSIL, DON'T YOU, VIC? "HAVE A NICE TRIP-- SEE YOU NEXT FALL!"
WHAT THE--?!
KTANG
HEADS UP!
NO!
SHRAMM
THAT BLAST CAME MUCH TOO CLOSE TO MY GOOD EYE! I CAN'T RISK BEING INCAPACITATED!
I SHALL EXECUTE MY EMERGENCY ESCAPE PLAN!
OH NO YOU WON'T YOU FORGOT TO SAY "MAY I?"

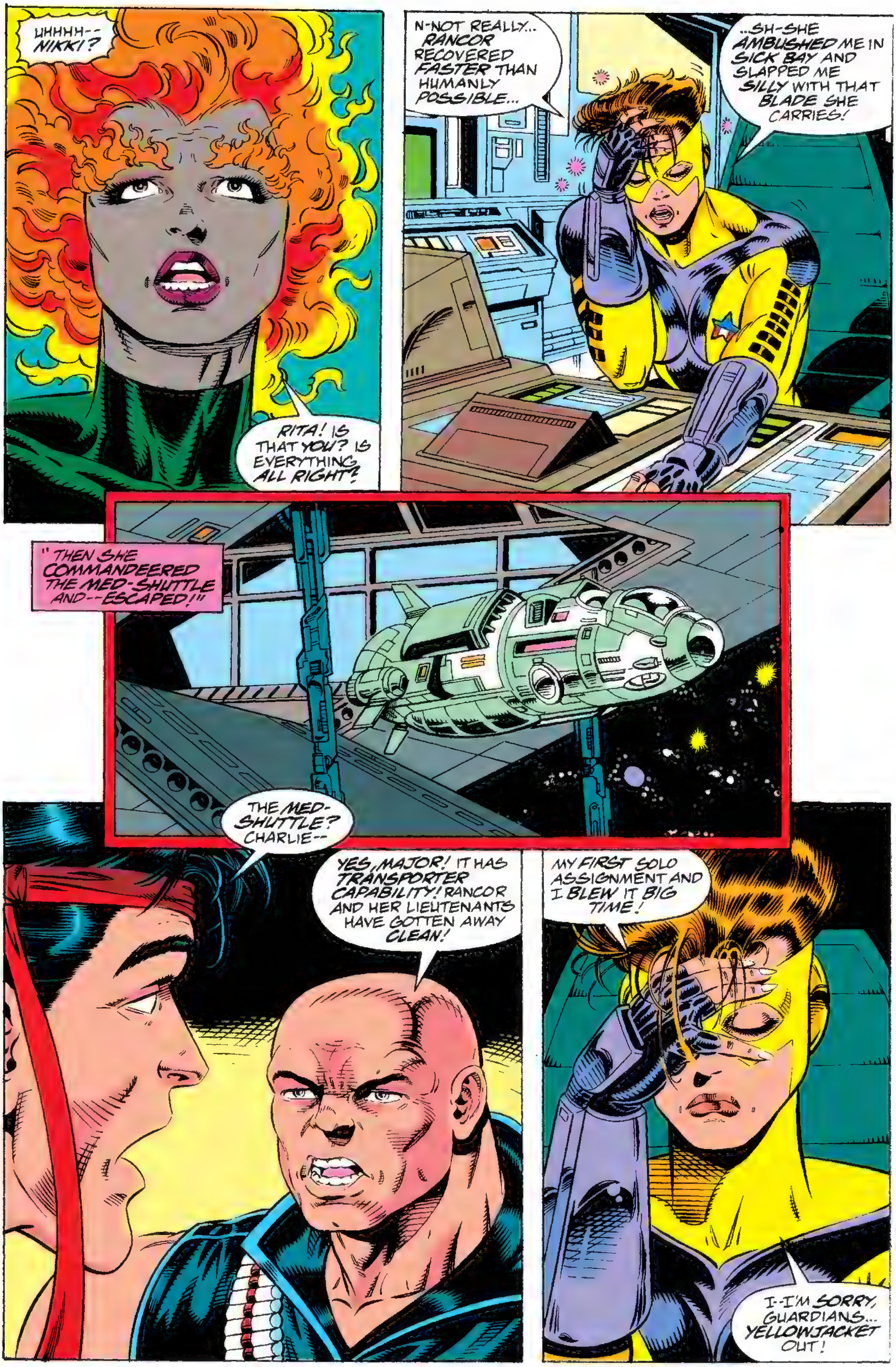

I'LL SIZE UP AND FOLLOW HIM ON--
OH MY GOD!
VANCE! RANCOR'S BLEEDING LIKE A STUCK PIG! I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO ICARUS'S SICK BAY OR SHE'S A GONER!
VERY WELL, RITA... BUT BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL!
RANCOR IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS IN ANY CONDITION! STAY IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH US!
AFFIRMITIVE!
MAJOR! WHAT'S GOING ON!
HAS TALON GOT THE MUTANTS IN A FORCE FIELD?
YOU MIGHT AS WELL DROP IT!
WHAT! AND SET THEM FREE?

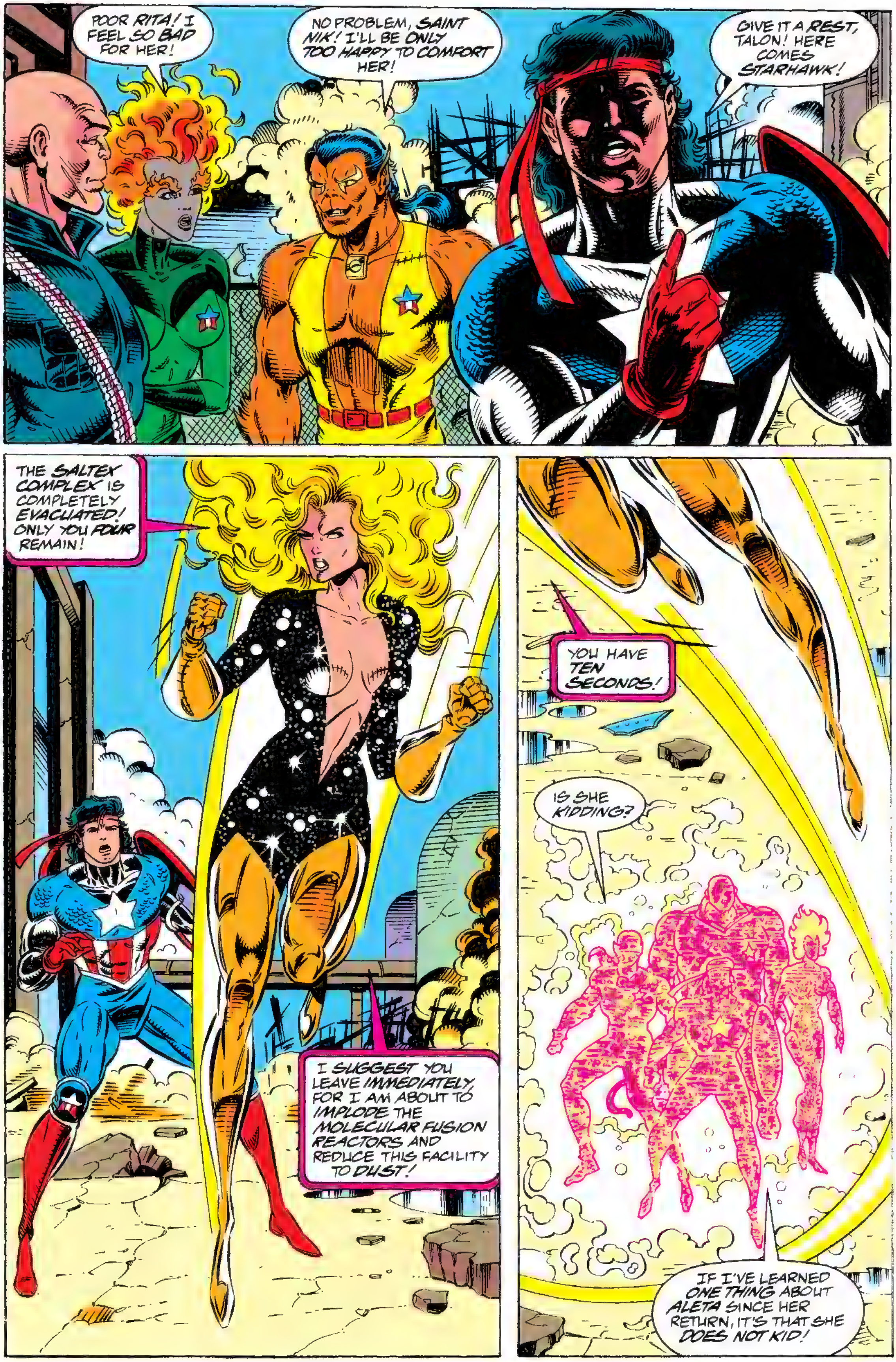

THEY'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE-- UNLESS THEY WANT TO DEAL WITH A VERY ANGRY STARHAWK!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE, LITTLE MISS MERCURY!

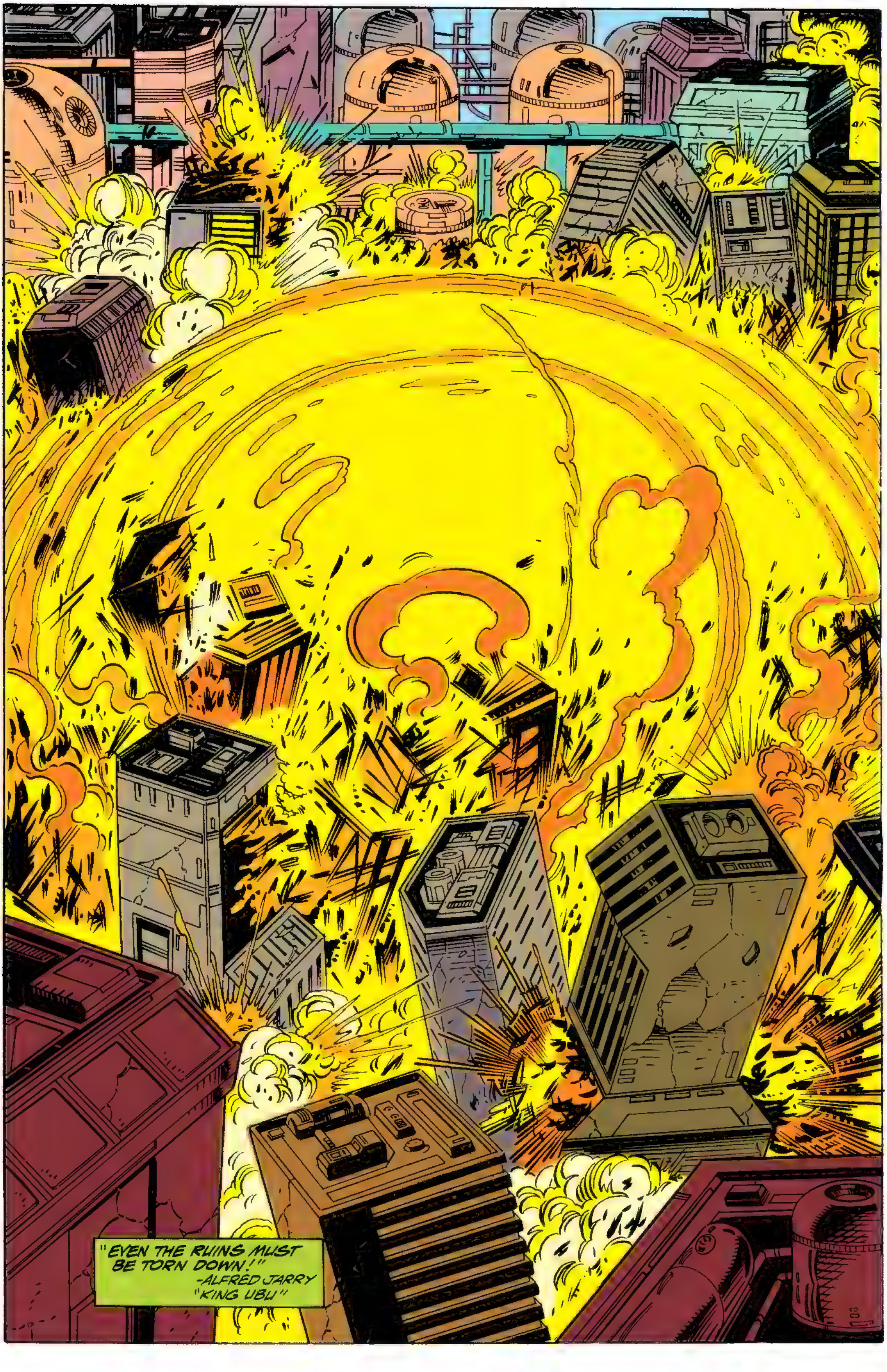

MEANWHILE, ON BOARD ICARUS:
I WAS GOING TO STEM THE BLEEDING--
--BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED ON ITS OWN!
REMARKABLE! THESE DEEP LETHAL WOUNDS ARE CLOSING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
LIKE I REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT WOLVERINE! HE HAD SOME KIND OF...WHAT'S IT CALLED...
HEALING FAAAAACK!

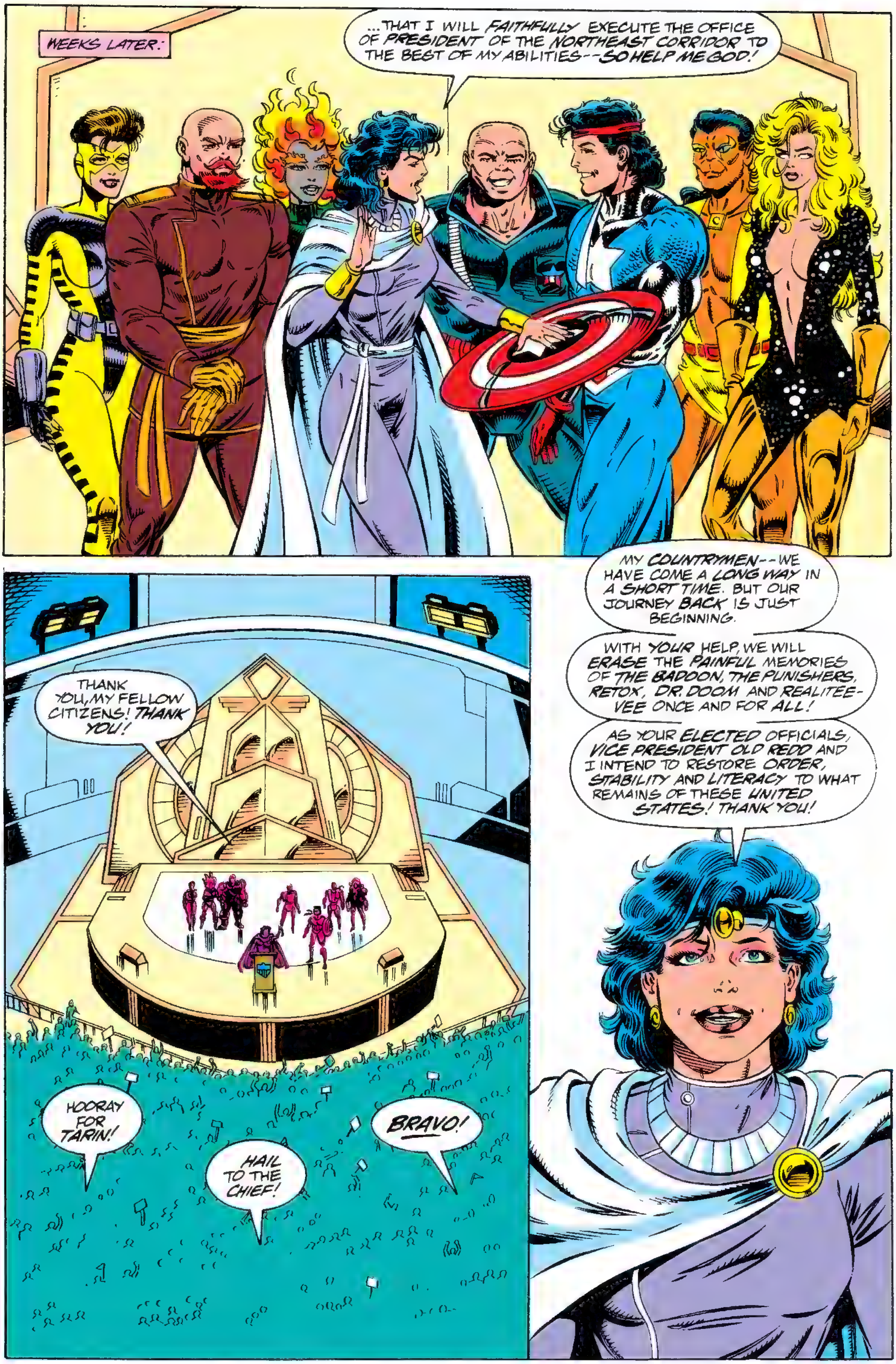

HEY! WATCH THE SHIV, LADY! I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!
THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS DIE!
HAVEN'S MOONS! SHE DISAPPEARED!
SHHWIK
NOT QUITE, SPOCKEARS! YOUR BEDSIDE MANNER LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED!
SKTOW
AGGGH!
THWAK
RANCOR HAS ENDURED ENOUGH INDIGNITY THIS DAY!
YEOW!

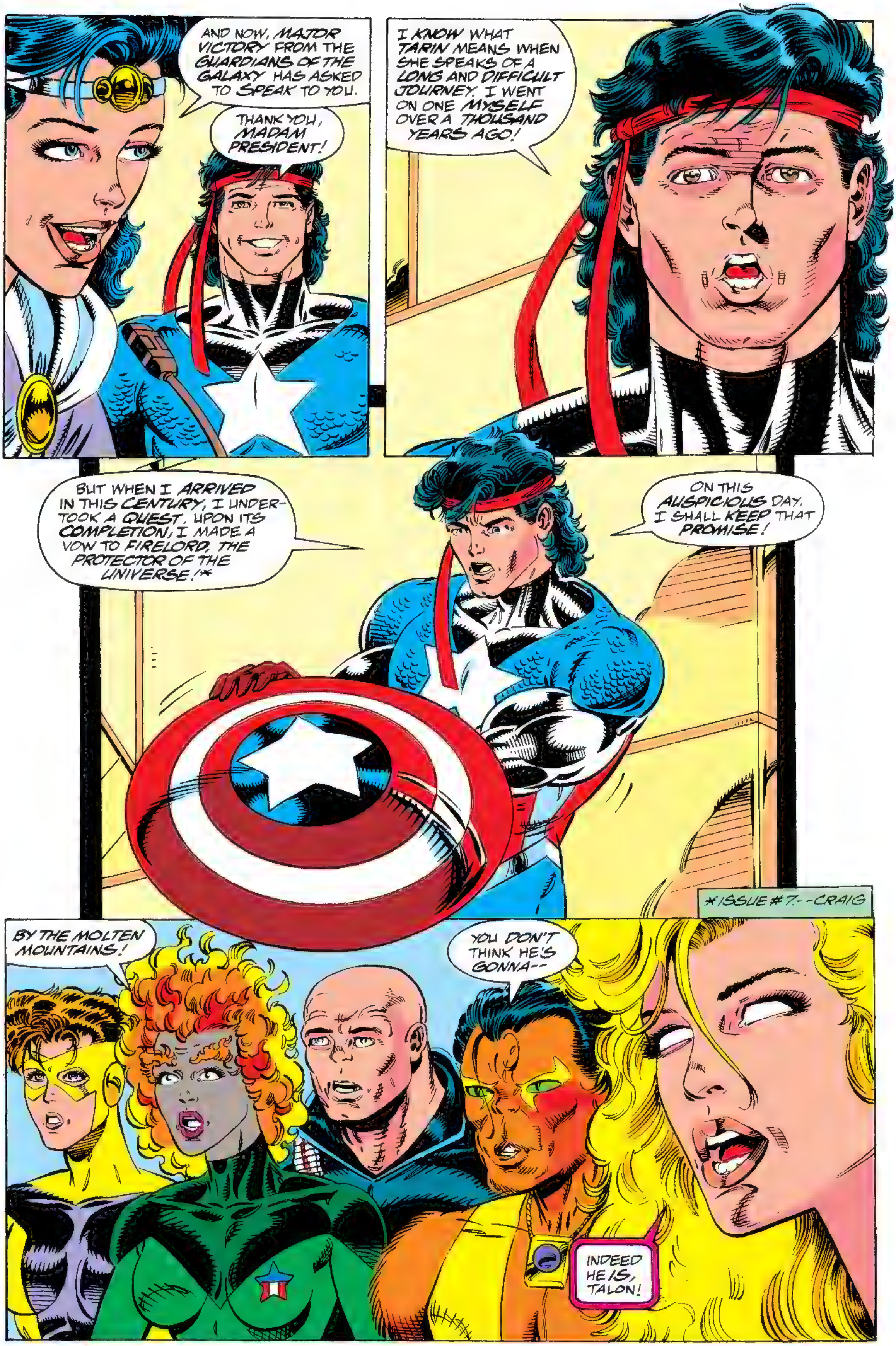

CHUNKY! I CAN'T RAISE YELLOWJACKET! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG UP THERE!
OKAY! I'LL CHECK IT OUT!
HOLD ON, CAPTAIN 27! THE MUTANTS ARE ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY!
WHAT IS IT, MIND-SCAN? ARE YOU RECEIVING A MESSAGE?
INDEED! ONE THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!
FAREWELL, GUARDIANS! WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!
THEY'RE TELEPORTING! STOP THEM, TALON!
HOW? THEY'RE ALREADY GONE!

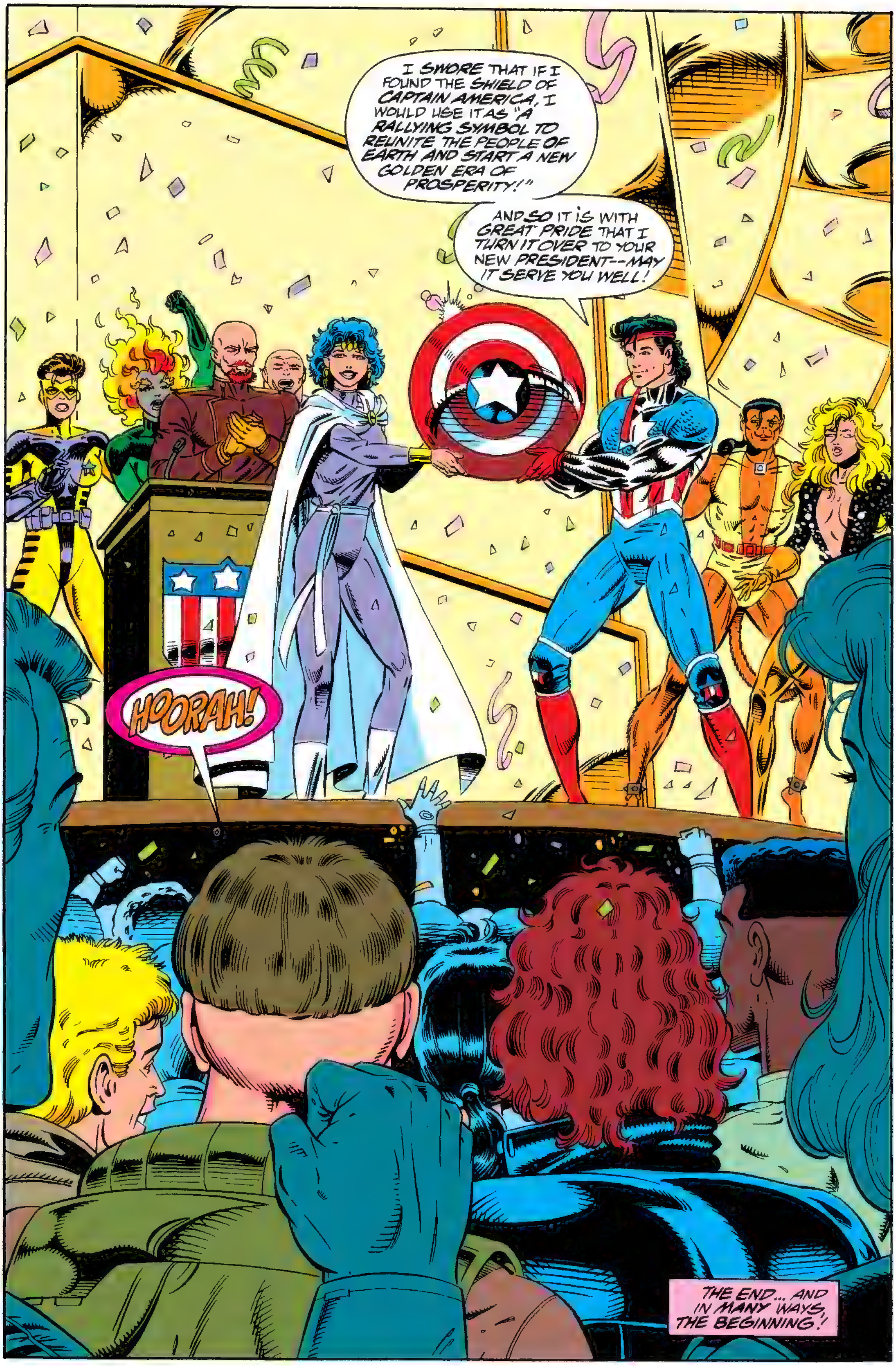

UHHHH--NIKKI?
RITA! IS THAT YOU? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
N-NOT REALLY... RANCOR RECOVERED FASTER THAN HUMANLY POSSIBLE...
...SH-SHE AMBUSHED ME IN SICK BAY AND SLAPPED ME SILLY WITH THAT BLADE SHE CARRIES!
"THEN SHE COMMANDEERED THE MED-SHUTTLE AND--ESCAPED!"
THE MED-SHUTTLE? CHARLIE--
YES, MAJOR! IT HAS TRANSPORTER CAPABILITY! RANCOR AND HER LIEUTENANTS HAVE GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN!
MY FIRST SOLO ASSIGNMENT AND I BLEW IT BIG TIME!
I-I'M SORRY, GUARDIANS... YELLOWJACKET OUT!

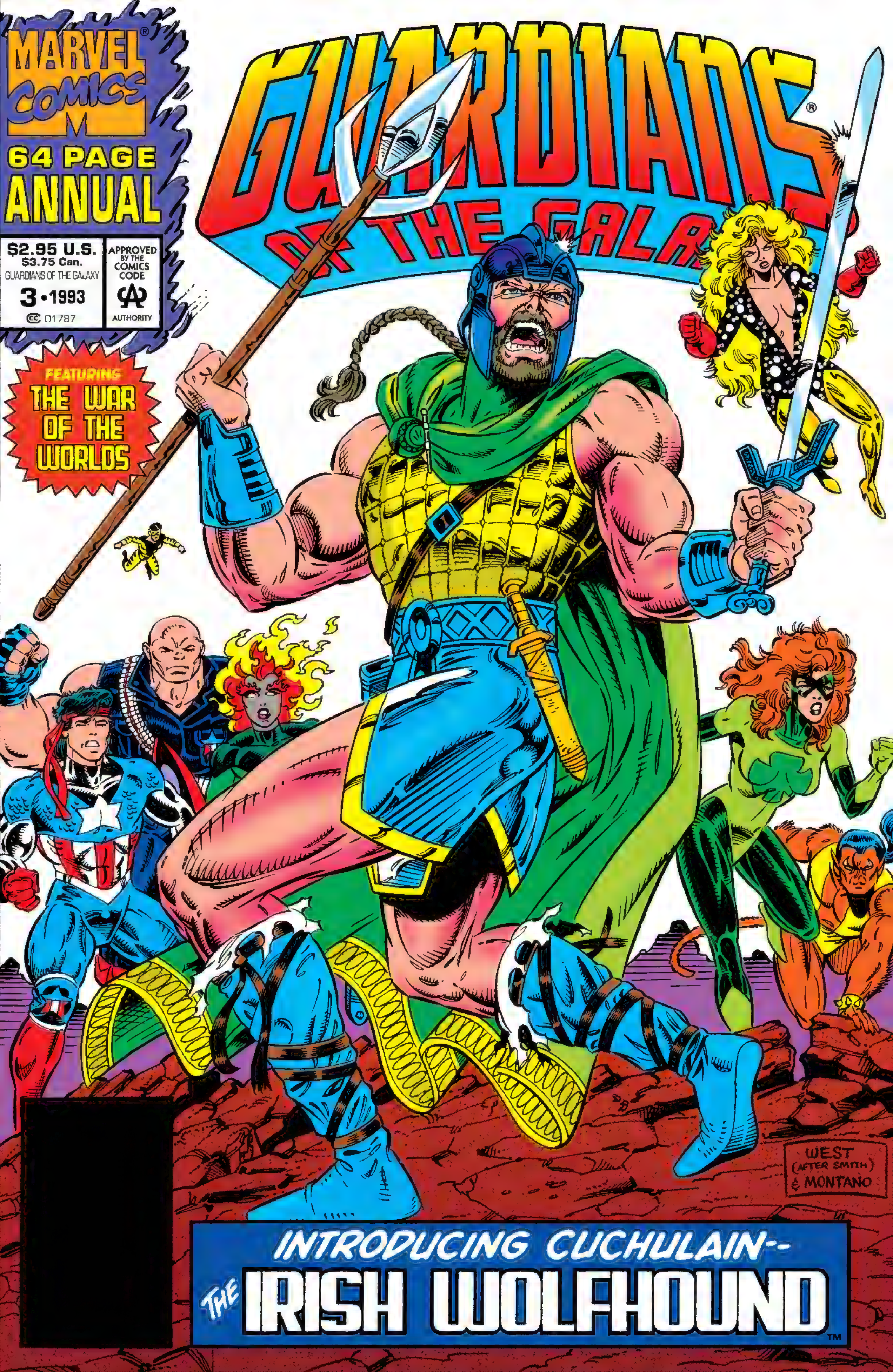

POOR *RITA!* I FEEL SO *BAD* FOR HER!
NO PROBLEM, *SAINT NIK!* I'LL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO COMFORT HER!
GIVE IT A *REST,* TALON! HERE COMES *STARHAWK!*
THE *SALTEX COMPLEX* IS COMPLETELY *EVACUATED!* ONLY YOU *FOUR* REMAIN!
I *SUGGEST* YOU LEAVE *IMMEDIATELY,* FOR I AM ABOUT TO *IMPLODE* THE *MOLECULAR FUSION REACTORS* AND REDUCE THIS FACILITY TO *DUST!*
YOU HAVE *TEN SECONDS!*
IS SHE KIDDING?
IF I'VE LEARNED *ONE THING* ABOUT *ALETA* SINCE HER RETURN, IT'S THAT SHE *DOES NOT KID!*


"EVEN THE RUINS MUST BE TORN DOWN!"
-ALFRED JARRY
"KING UBU"


WEEKS LATER:
...THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES--SO HELP ME GOD!
THANK YOU, MY FELLOW CITIZENS! THANK YOU!
HOORAY FOR TARIN!
HAIL TO THE CHIEF!
BRAVO!
MY COUNTRYMEN--WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN A SHORT TIME. BUT OUR JOURNEY BACK IS JUST BEGINNING.
WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL ERASE THE PAINFUL MEMORIES OF THE BADOON, THE PUNISHERS, RETOX, DR. DOOM AND REALITEE-VEE ONCE AND FOR ALL!
AS YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, VICE PRESIDENT OLD REDD AND I INTEND TO RESTORE ORDER, STABILITY AND LITERACY TO WHAT REMAINS OF THESE UNITED STATES! THANK YOU!


AND NOW, MAJOR VICTORY FROM THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY HAS ASKED TO SPEAK TO YOU.
THANK YOU, MADAM PRESIDENT!
I KNOW WHAT TARIN MEANS WHEN SHE SPEAKS OF A LONG AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY. I WENT ON ONE MYSELF OVER A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!
BUT WHEN I ARRIVED IN THIS CENTURY, I UNDERTOOK A QUEST. UPON ITS COMPLETION, I MADE A VOW TO FIRELORD, THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE!*
ON THIS AUSPICIOUS DAY, I SHALL KEEP THAT PROMISE!
*ISSUE #7.--CRAIG
BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS!
YOU DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA--
INDEED HE IS, TALON!


I SWORE THAT IF I FOUND THE SHIELD OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, I WOULD USE IT AS "A RALLYING SYMBOL TO REUNITE THE PEOPLE OF EARTH AND START A NEW GOLDEN ERA OF PROSPERITY!"
AND SO IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I TURN IT OVER TO YOUR NEW PRESIDENT--MAY IT SERVE YOU WELL!
HOORAH!
THE END... AND IN MANY WAYS, THE BEGINNING!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OF THE GALA
FEATURING THE WAR OF THE WORLDS
WEST (AFTER SMITH) & MONTANO
INTRODUCING CUCHULAIN--
THE IRISH WOLFHOUND™

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

ANNUAL

"THERE IS NO FUTURE — ONLY THE PAST HAPPENING AGAIN AND AGAIN"

MICHAEL GALLAGHER *Writer*
COLLEEN DORAN *Penciler*
STEVE MONTANO *Inker*
KEN LOPEZ *Letterer*
EVELYN STEIN *Colorist*

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PIN-UP GALLERY pg. 59

MICHAEL GALLAGHER *Writer*
KEVIN WEST *Penciler*
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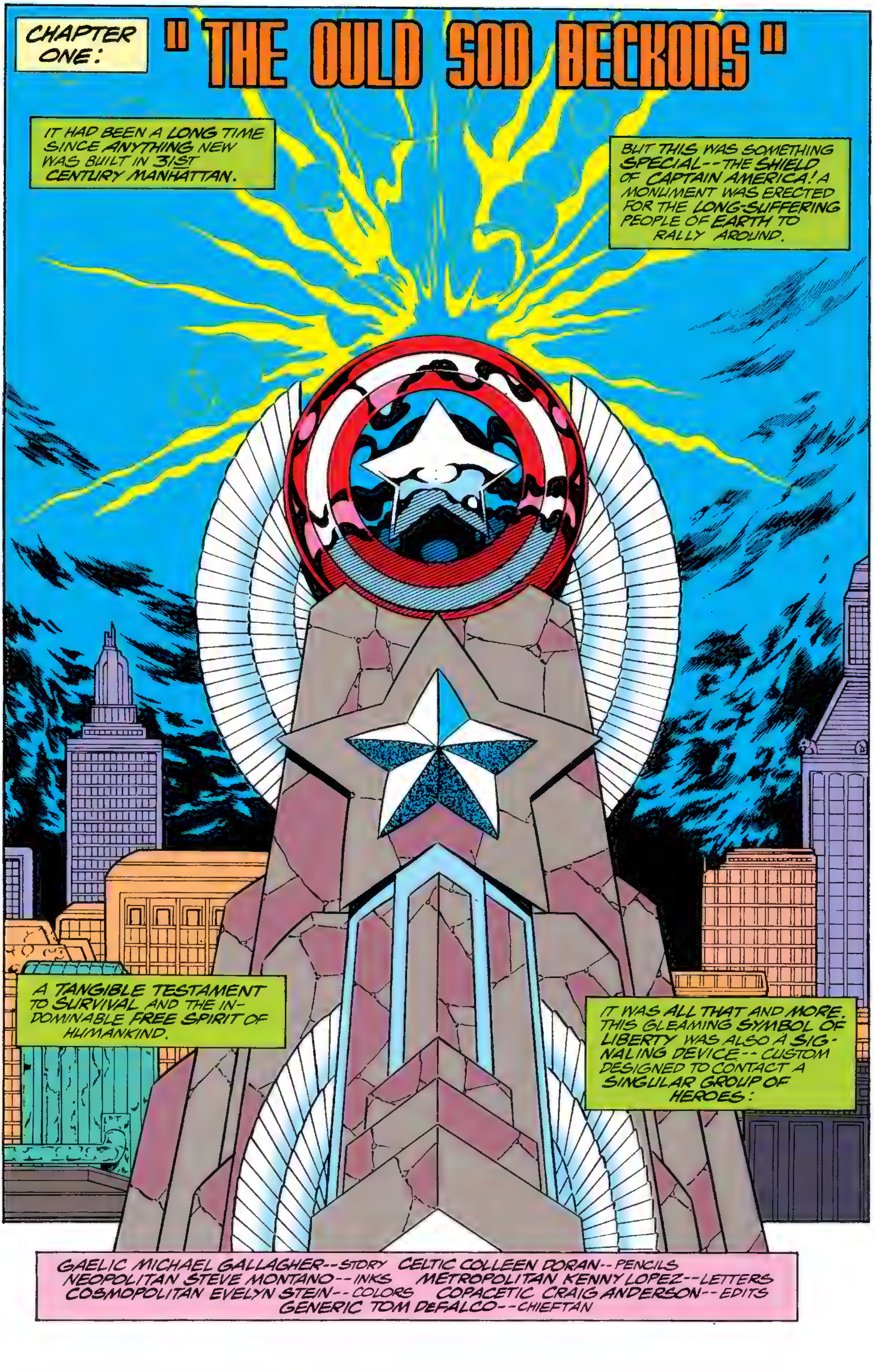
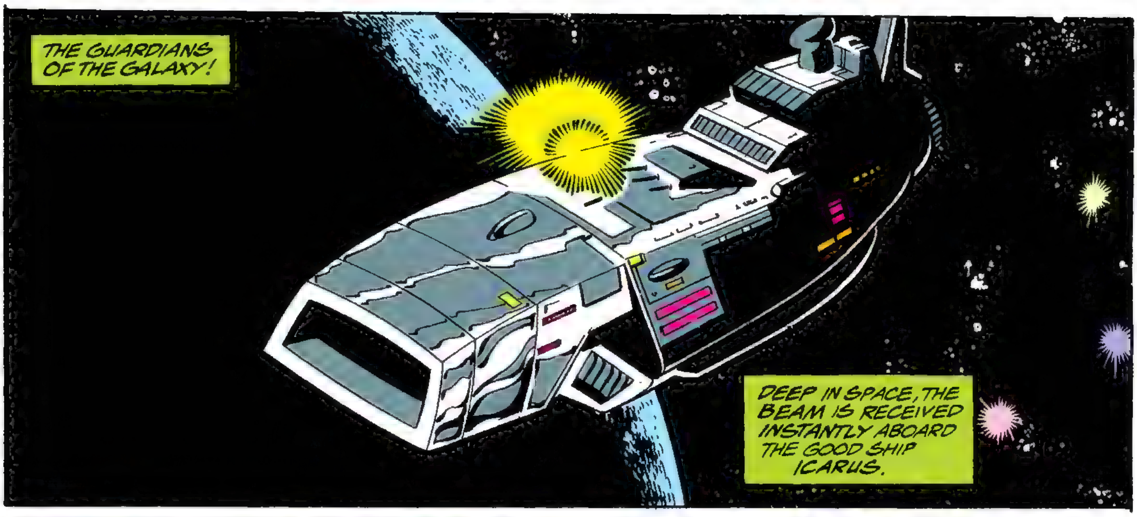
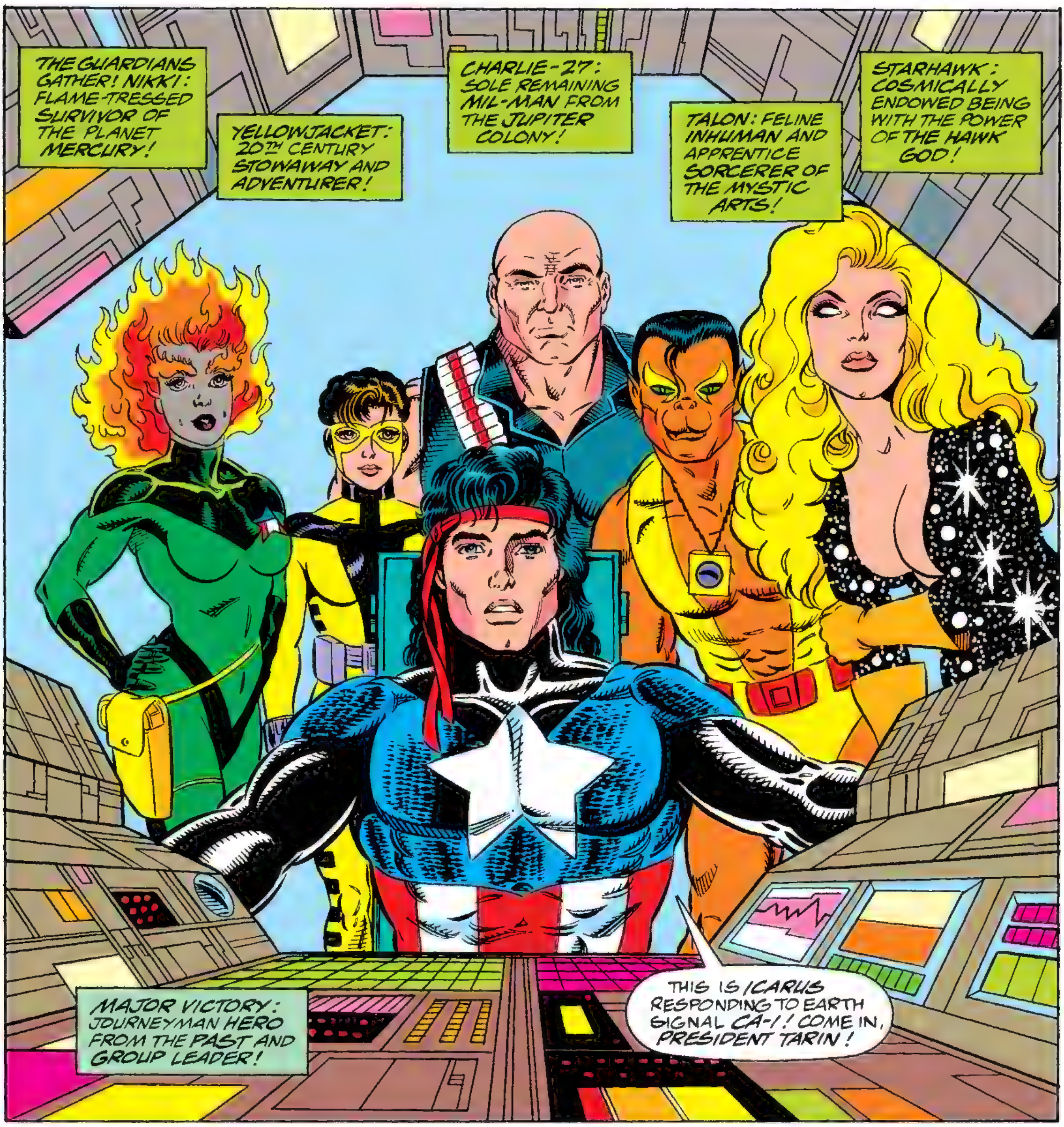
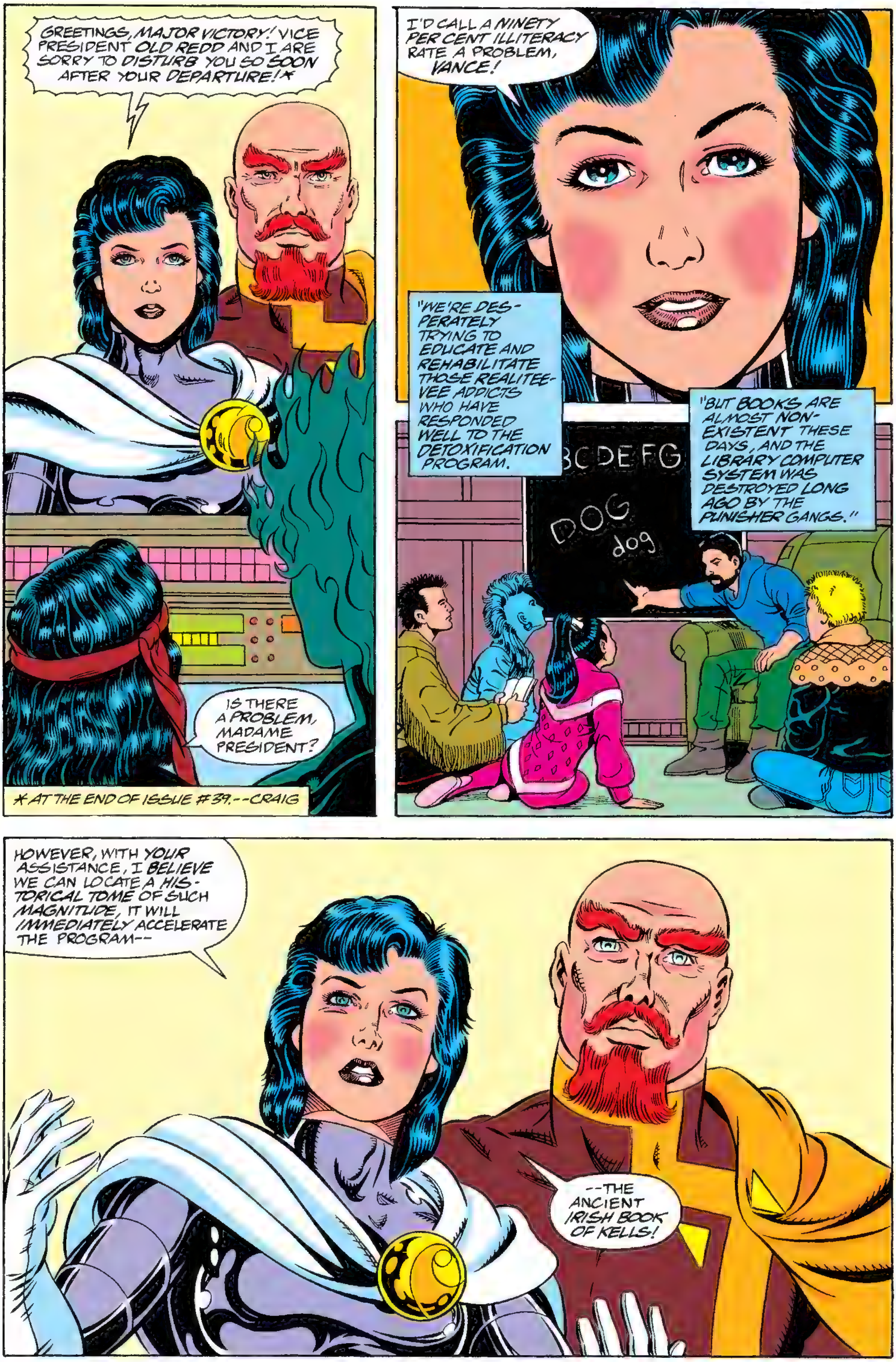
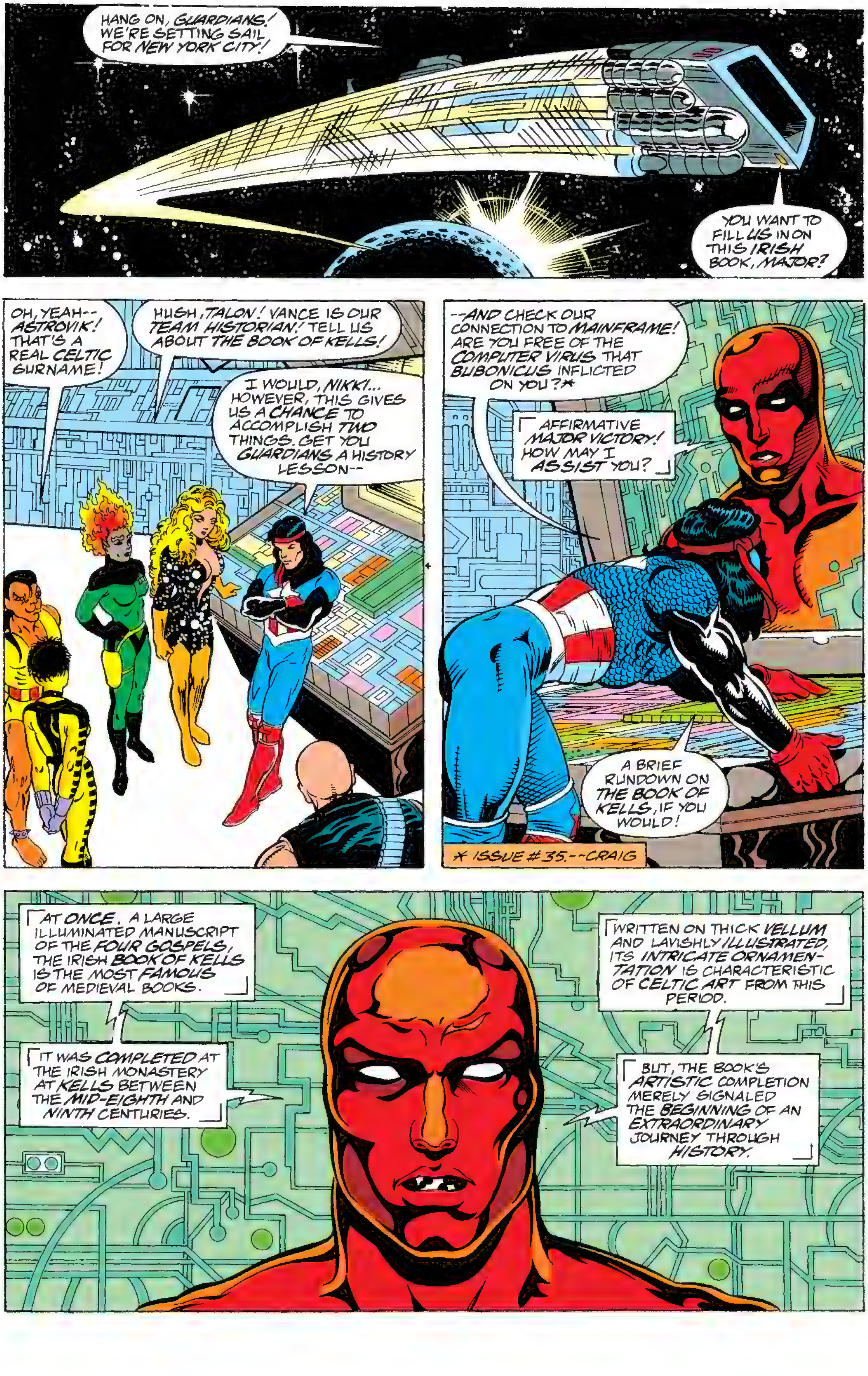
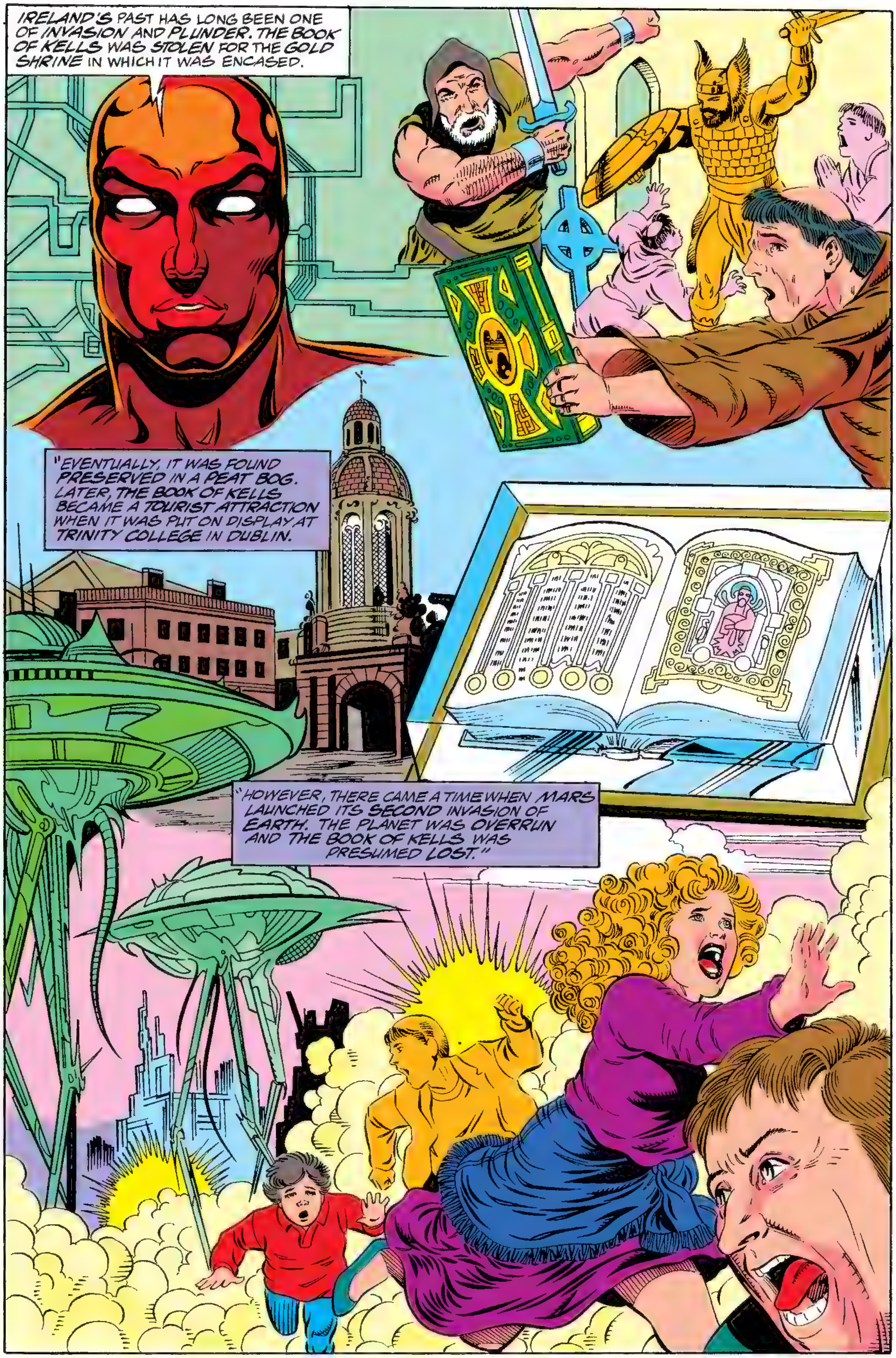

CHAPTER ONE:
"THE OULD SOD BECKONS"
IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYTHING NEW WAS BUILT IN 31ST CENTURY MANHATTAN.
BUT THIS WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL--THE SHIELD OF CAPTAIN AMERICA! A MONUMENT WAS ERECTED FOR THE LONG-SUFFERING PEOPLE OF EARTH TO RALLY AROUND.
A TANGIBLE TESTAMENT TO SURVIVAL AND THE INDOMINABLE FREE SPIRIT OF HUMANKIND.
IT WAS ALL THAT AND MORE. THIS GLEAMING SYMBOL OF LIBERTY WAS ALSO A SIGNALING DEVICE--CUSTOM DESIGNED TO CONTACT A SINGULAR GROUP OF HEROES:
GAELIC MICHAEL GALLAGHER--STORY CELTIC COLLEEN DORAN--PENCILS
NEOPOLITAN STEVE MONTANO--INKS METROPOLITAN KENNY LOPEZ--LETTERS
COSMOPOLITAN EVELYN STEIN--COLORS COPACETIC CRAIG ANDERSON--EDITS
GENERIC TOM DEFALCO--CHIEFTAN

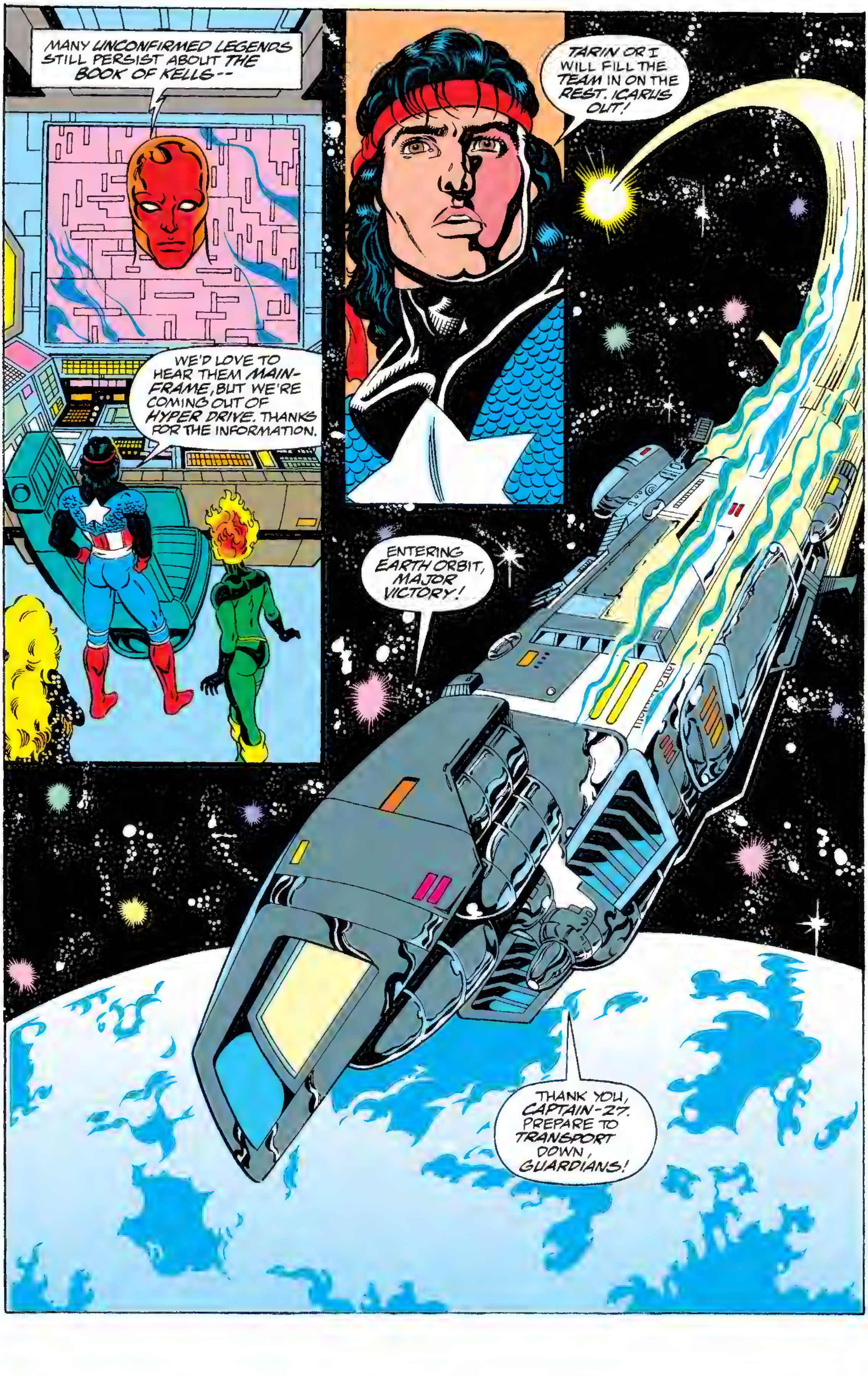

THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!
DEEP IN SPACE, THE BEAM IS RECEIVED INSTANTLY ABOARD THE GOOD SHIP *ICARUS*.

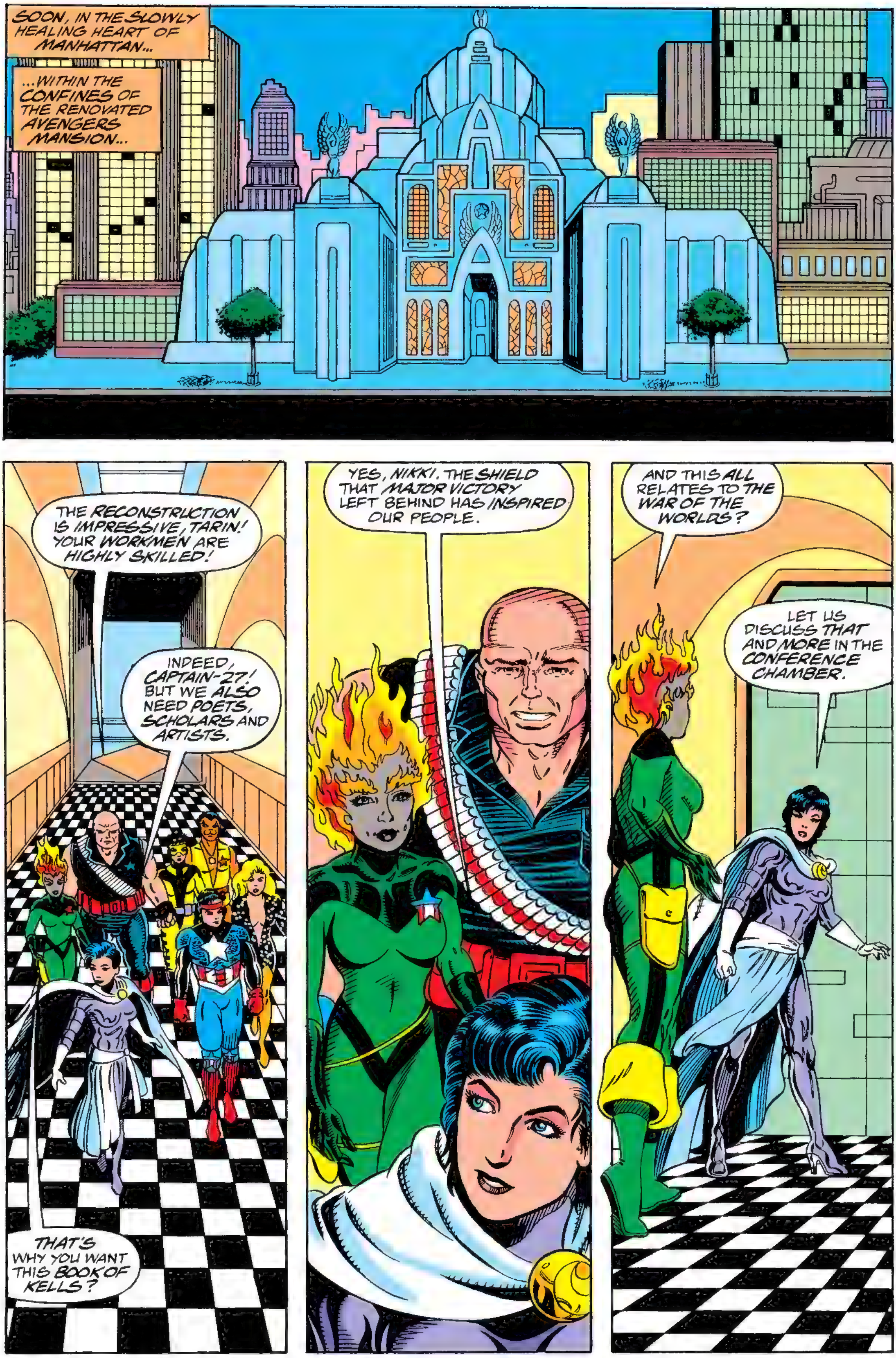

THE GUARDIANS GATHER! NIKKI: FLAME-TRESSED SURVIVOR OF THE PLANET MERCURY!
YELLOWJACKET: 20TH CENTURY STOWAWAY AND ADVENTURER!
CHARLIE-27: SOLE REMAINING MIL-MAN FROM THE JUPITER COLONY!
TALON: FELINE INHUMAN AND APPRENTICE SORCERER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
STARHAWK: COSMICALLY ENDOWED BEING WITH THE POWER OF THE HAWK GOD!
MAJOR VICTORY: JOURNEYMAN HERO FROM THE PAST AND GROUP LEADER!
THIS IS *ICARUS* RESPONDING TO EARTH SIGNAL *CA-1*! COME IN, *PRESIDENT TARIN*!

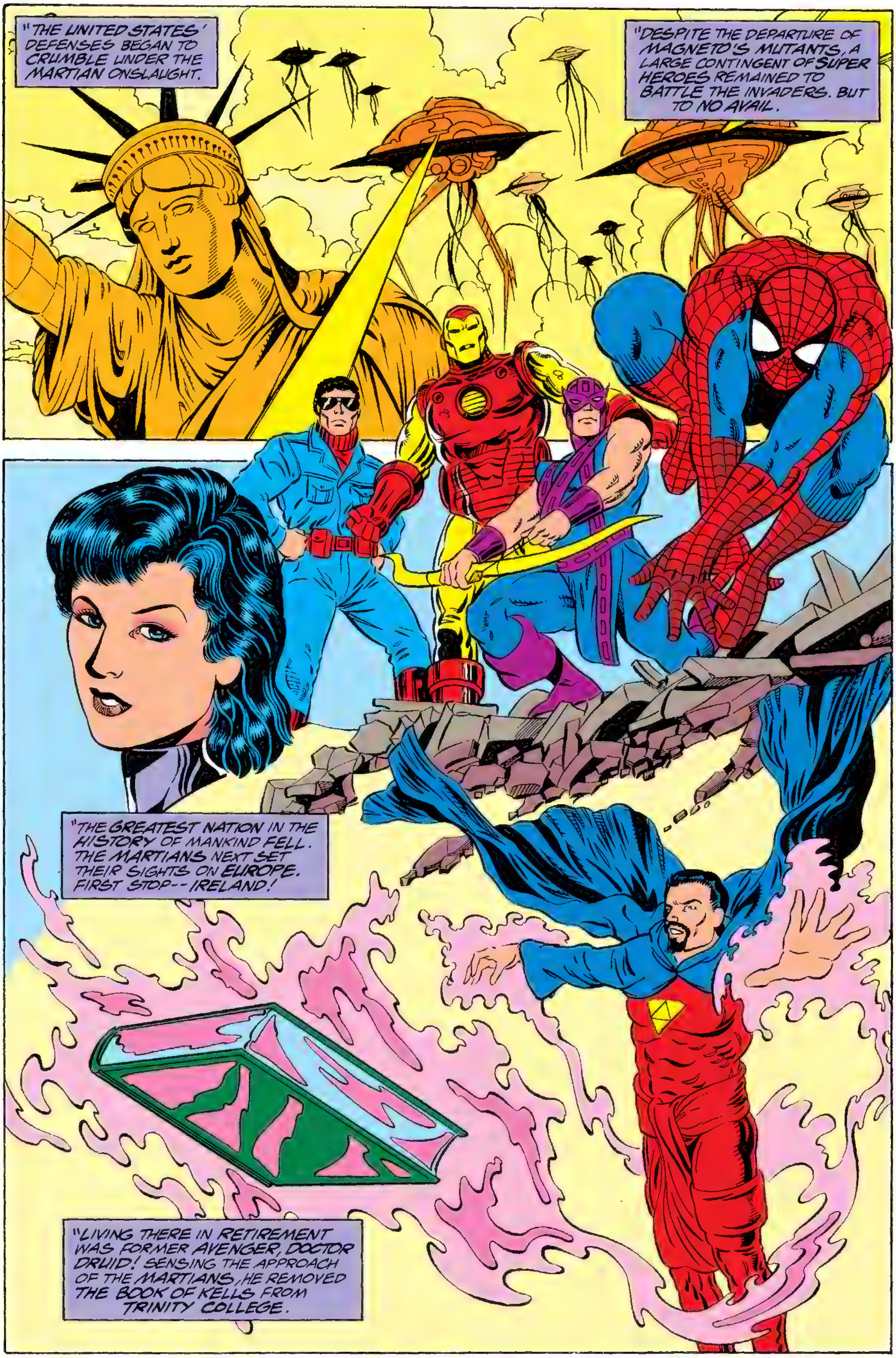

GREETINGS, MAJOR VICTORY! VICE PRESIDENT OLD REDD AND I ARE SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO SOON AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE!*
IS THERE A PROBLEM, MADAME PRESIDENT?
*AT THE END OF ISSUE #39.--CRAIG
I'D CALL A NINETY PER CENT ILLITERACY RATE A PROBLEM, VANCE!
"WE'RE DESPERATELY TRYING TO EDUCATE AND REHABILITATE THOSE REALITEE-VEE ADDICTS WHO HAVE RESPONDED WELL TO THE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAM.
BCDEFG
DOG
dog
"BUT BOOKS ARE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT THESE DAYS, AND THE LIBRARY COMPUTER SYSTEM WAS DESTROYED LONG AGO BY THE PUNISHER GANGS."
HOWEVER, WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE, I BELIEVE WE CAN LOCATE A HISTORICAL TOME OF SUCH MAGNITUDE, IT WILL IMMEDIATELY ACCELERATE THE PROGRAM--
--THE ANCIENT IRISH BOOK OF KELLS!

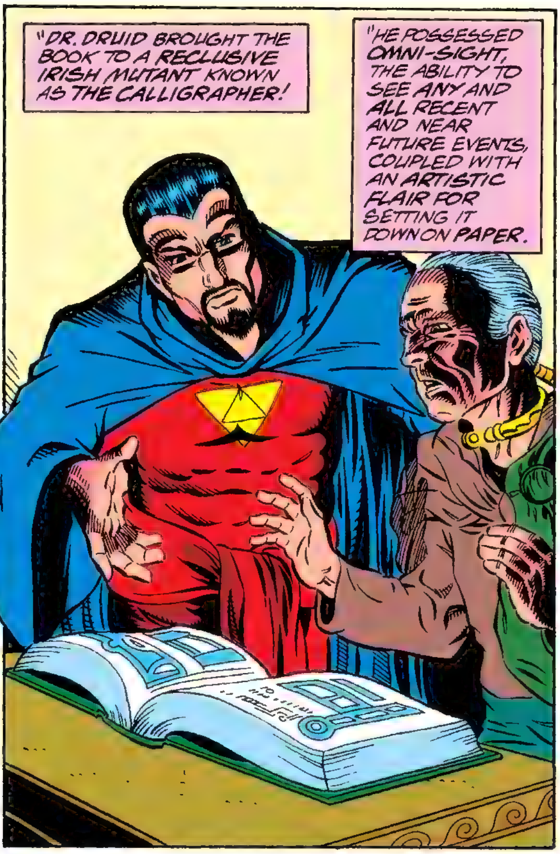

HANG ON, GUARDIANS! WE'RE SETTING SAIL FOR NEW YORK CITY!
YOU WANT TO FILL US IN ON THIS IRISH BOOK, MAJOR?
OH, YEAH-- ASTROVIK! THAT'S A REAL CELTIC SURNAME!
HUSH, TALON! VANCE IS OUR TEAM HISTORIAN! TELL US ABOUT THE BOOK OF KELLS!
I WOULD, NIKKI... HOWEVER, THIS GIVES US A CHANCE TO ACCOMPLISH TWO THINGS. GET YOU GUARDIANS A HISTORY LESSON--
--AND CHECK OUR CONNECTION TO MAINFRAME! ARE YOU FREE OF THE COMPUTER VIRUS THAT BUBONICUS INFLICTED ON YOU?*
AFFIRMATIVE MAJOR VICTORY! HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?
A BRIEF RUNDOWN ON THE BOOK OF KELLS, IF YOU WOULD!
* ISSUE #35.--CRAIG
AT ONCE. A LARGE ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT OF THE FOUR GOSPELS, THE IRISH BOOK OF KELLS IS THE MOST FAMOUS OF MEDIEVAL BOOKS.
IT WAS COMPLETED AT THE IRISH MONASTERY AT KELLS BETWEEN THE MID-EIGHTH AND NINTH CENTURIES.
WRITTEN ON THICK VELLUM AND LAVISHLY ILLUSTRATED, ITS INTRICATE ORNAMENTATION IS CHARACTERISTIC OF CELTIC ART FROM THIS PERIOD.
BUT, THE BOOK'S ARTISTIC COMPLETION MERELY SIGNALED THE BEGINNING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY.

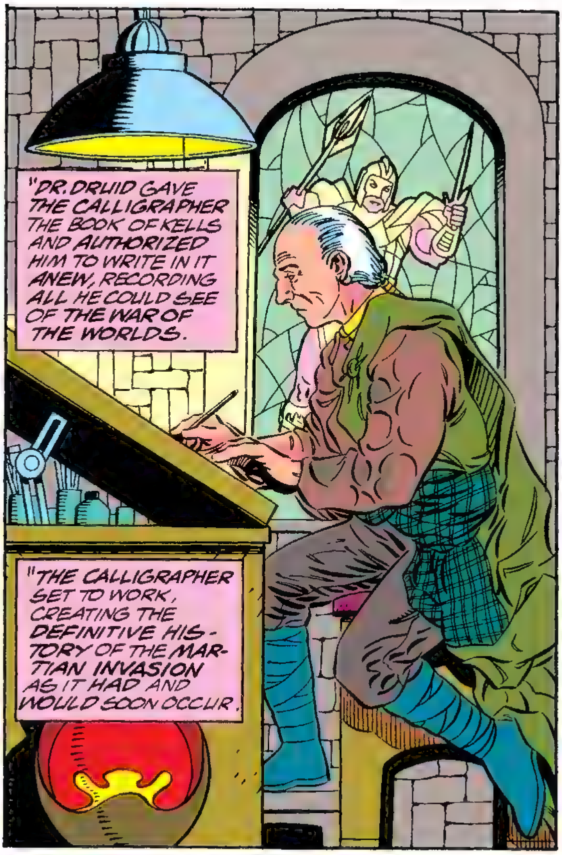

IRELAND'S PAST HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF INVASION AND PLUNDER. THE BOOK OF KELLS WAS STOLEN FOR THE GOLD SHRINE IN WHICH IT WAS ENCASED.
"EVENTUALLY, IT WAS FOUND PRESERVED IN A PEAT BOG. LATER, THE BOOK OF KELLS BECAME A TOURIST ATTRACTION WHEN IT WAS PUT ON DISPLAY AT TRINITY COLLEGE IN DUBLIN.
"HOWEVER, THERE CAME A TIME WHEN MARS LAUNCHED ITS SECOND INVASION OF EARTH. THE PLANET WAS OVERRUN AND THE BOOK OF KELLS WAS PRESUMED LOST."

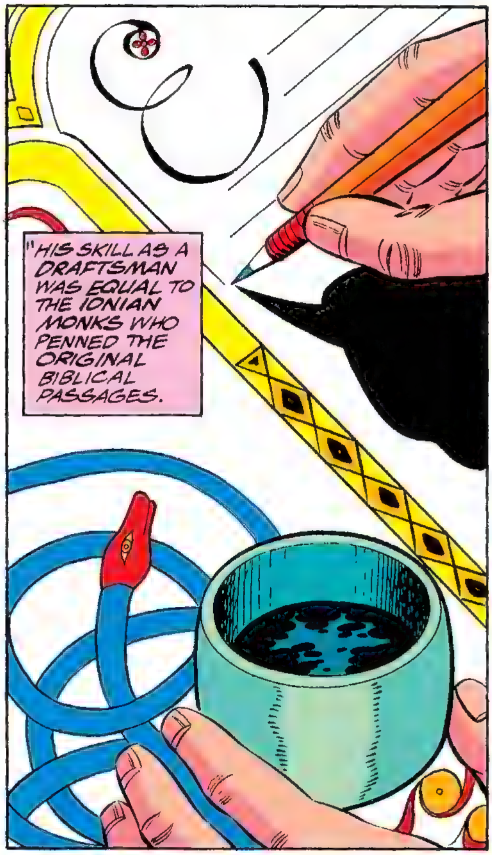

MANY UNCONFIRMED LEGENDS STILL PERSIST ABOUT THE BOOK OF KELLS--
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR THEM MAINFRAME, BUT WE'RE COMING OUT OF HYPER DRIVE. THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION.
TARIN OR I WILL FILL THE TEAM IN ON THE REST. ICARUS OUT!
ENTERING EARTH ORBIT, MAJOR VICTORY!
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN-27. PREPARE TO TRANSPORT DOWN, GUARDIANS!

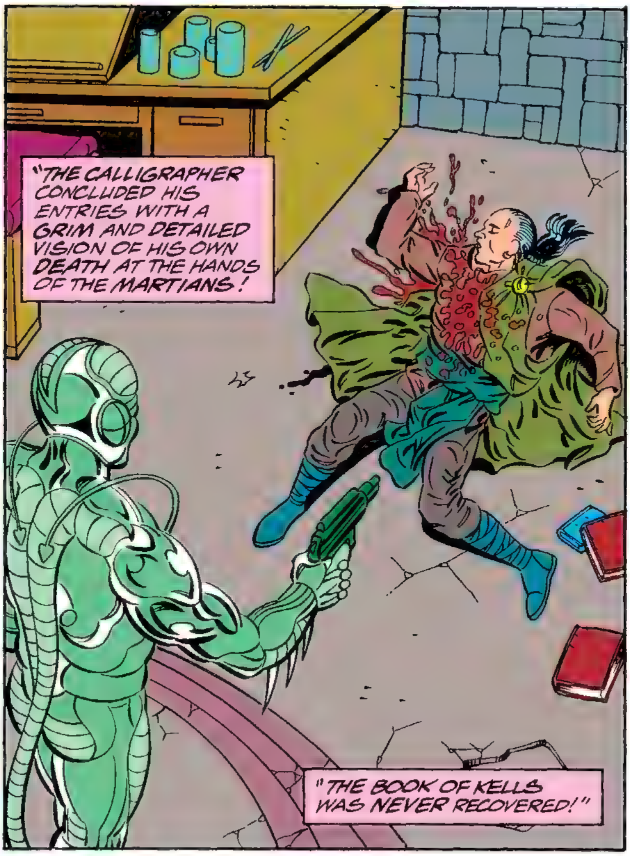

SOON, IN THE SLOWLY HEALING HEART OF MANHATTAN...
...WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE RENOVATED AVENGERS MANSION...
THE RECONSTRUCTION IS IMPRESSIVE, TARIN! YOUR WORKMEN ARE HIGHLY SKILLED!
INDEED, CAPTAIN-27! BUT WE ALSO NEED POETS, SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS.
THAT'S WHY YOU WANT THIS BOOK OF KELLS?
YES, NIKKI. THE SHIELD THAT MAJOR VICTORY LEFT BEHIND HAS INSPIRED OUR PEOPLE.
AND THIS ALL RELATES TO THE WAR OF THE WORLDS?
LET US DISCUSS THAT AND MORE IN THE CONFERENCE CHAMBER.

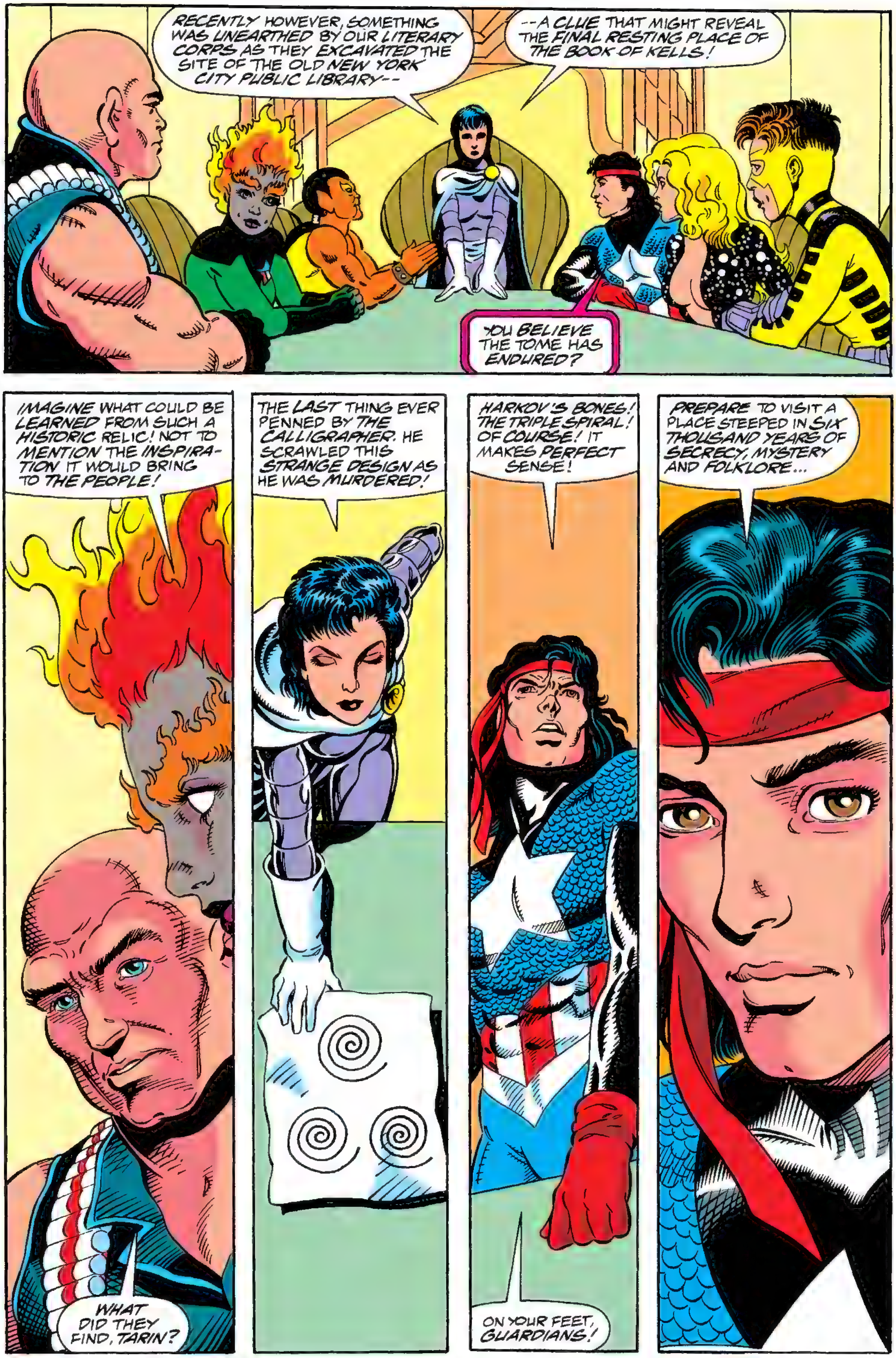

"THE UNITED STATES' DEFENSES BEGAN TO CRUMBLE UNDER THE MARTIAN ONSLAUGHT.
"DESPITE THE DEPARTURE OF MAGNETO'S MUTANTS, A LARGE CONTINGENT OF SUPER HEROES REMAINED TO BATTLE THE INVADERS. BUT TO NO AVAIL.
"THE GREATEST NATION IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND FELL. THE MARTIANS NEXT SET THEIR SIGHTS ON EUROPE. FIRST STOP-- IRELAND!
"LIVING THERE IN RETIREMENT WAS FORMER AVENGER, DOCTOR DRUID! SENSING THE APPROACH OF THE MARTIANS, HE REMOVED THE BOOK OF KELLS FROM TRINITY COLLEGE.

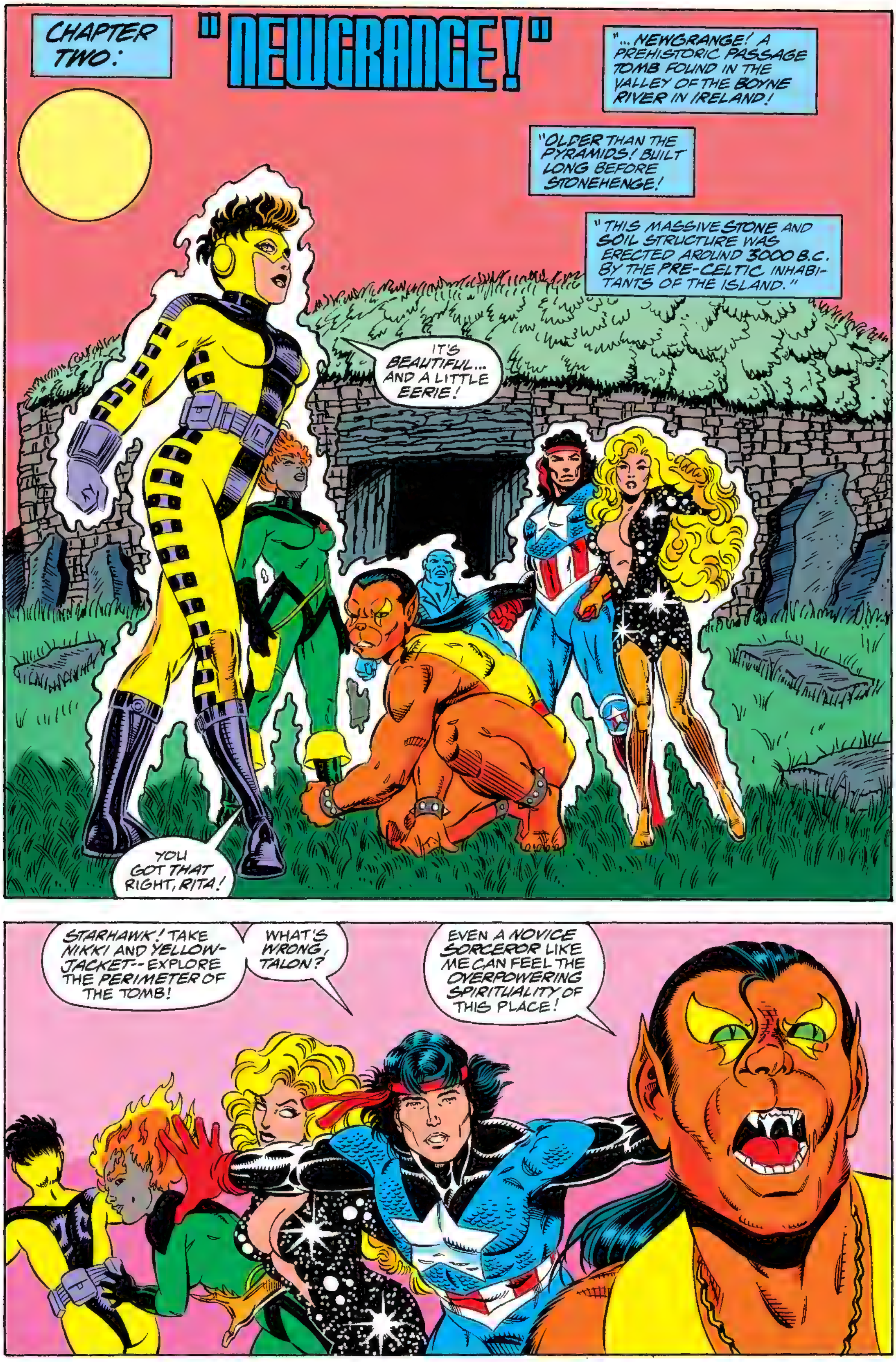

"DR. DRUID BROUGHT THE BOOK TO A RECLUSIVE IRISH MUTANT KNOWN AS THE CALLIGRAPHER!
"HE POSSESSED OMNI-SIGHT, THE ABILITY TO SEE ANY AND ALL RECENT AND NEAR FUTURE EVENTS, COUPLED WITH AN ARTISTIC FLAIR FOR SETTING IT DOWN ON PAPER.

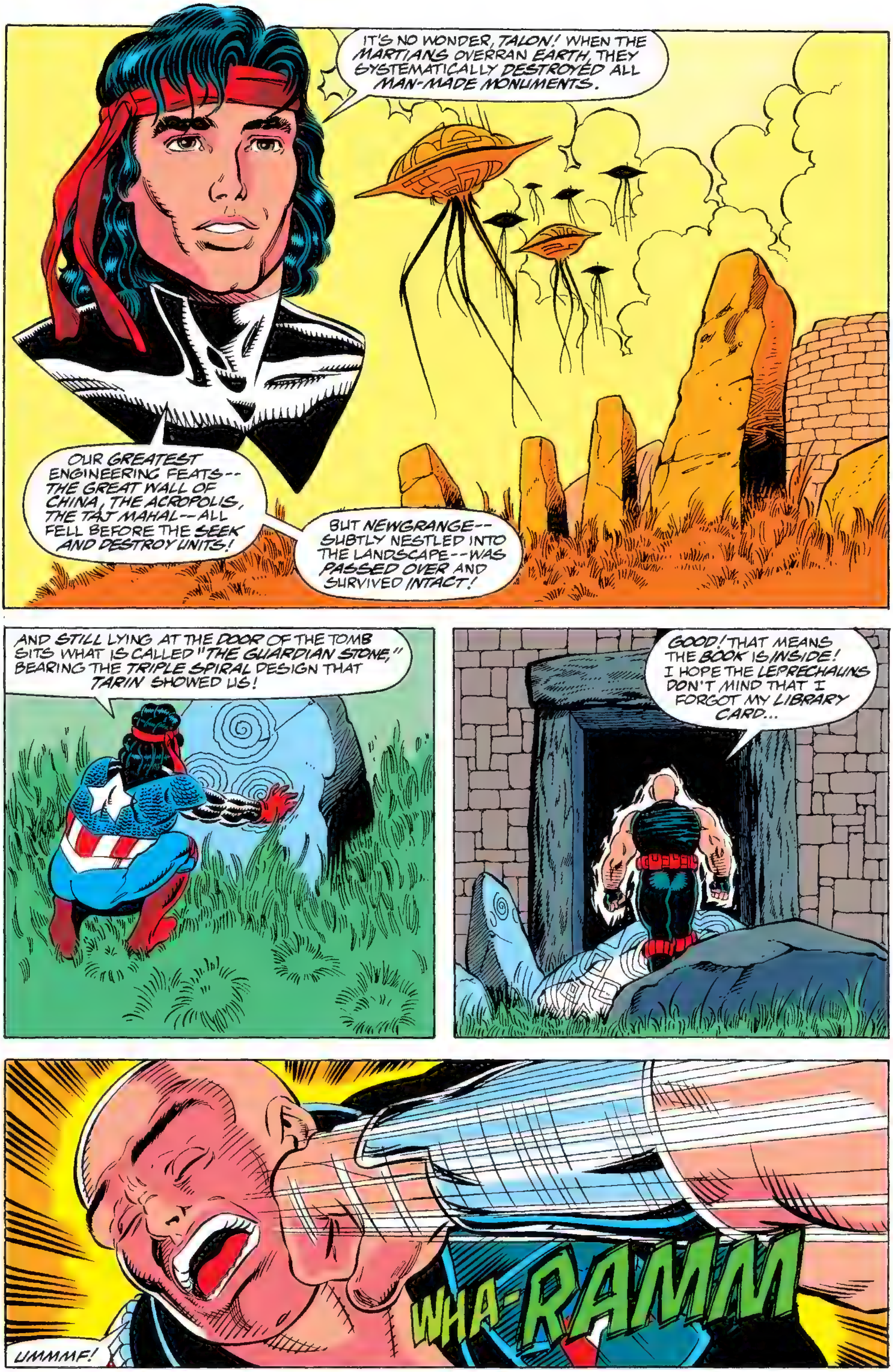

"DR. DRUID GAVE THE CALLIGRAPHER THE BOOK OF KELLS AND AUTHORIZED HIM TO WRITE IN IT ANEW, RECORDING ALL HE COULD SEE OF THE WAR OF THE WORLDS.
"THE CALLIGRAPHER SET TO WORK, CREATING THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF THE MARTIAN INVASION AS IT HAD AND WOULD SOON OCCUR.

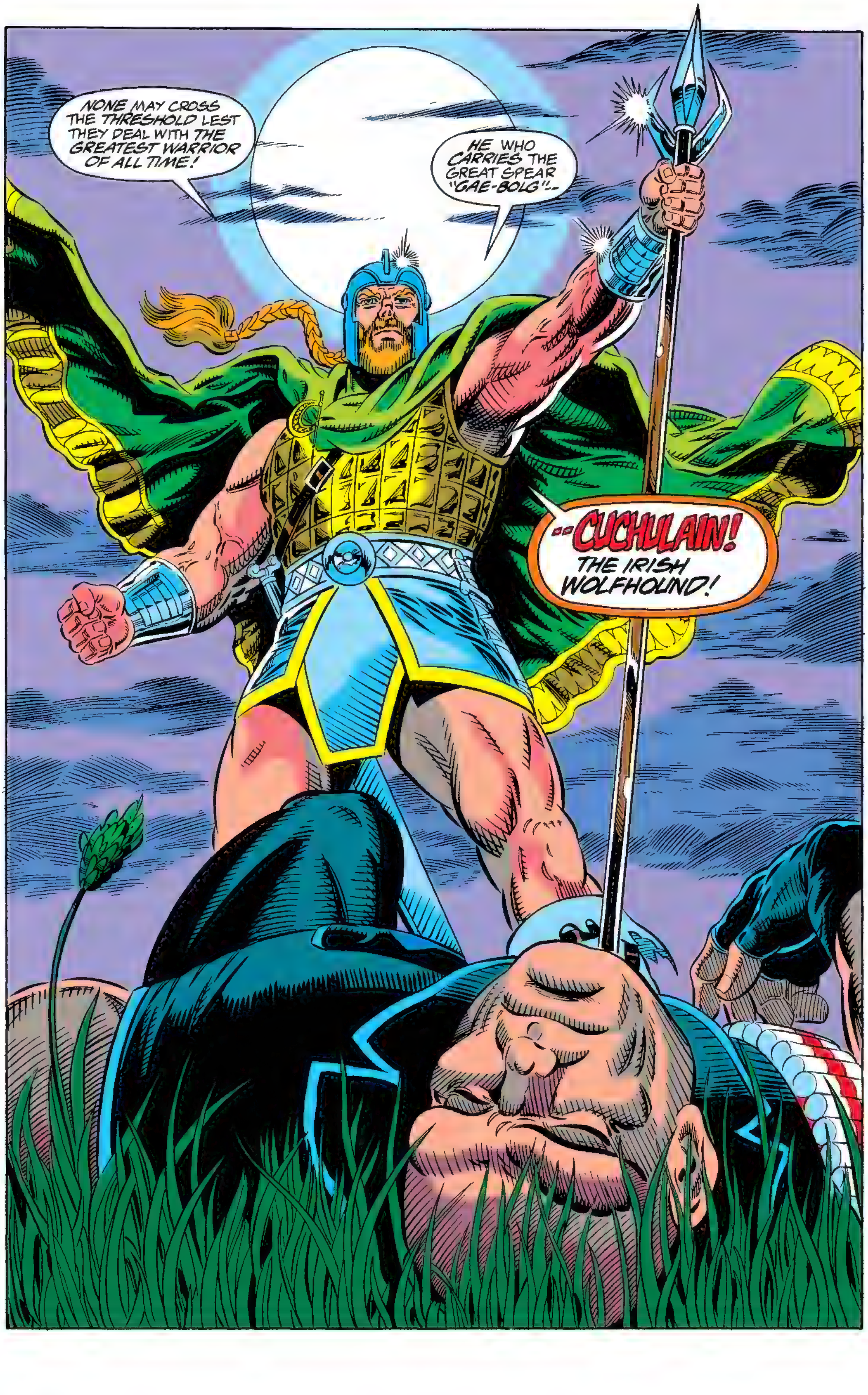

"HIS SKILL AS A DRAFTSMAN WAS EQUAL TO THE IONIAN MONKS WHO PENNED THE ORIGINAL BIBLICAL PASSAGES.

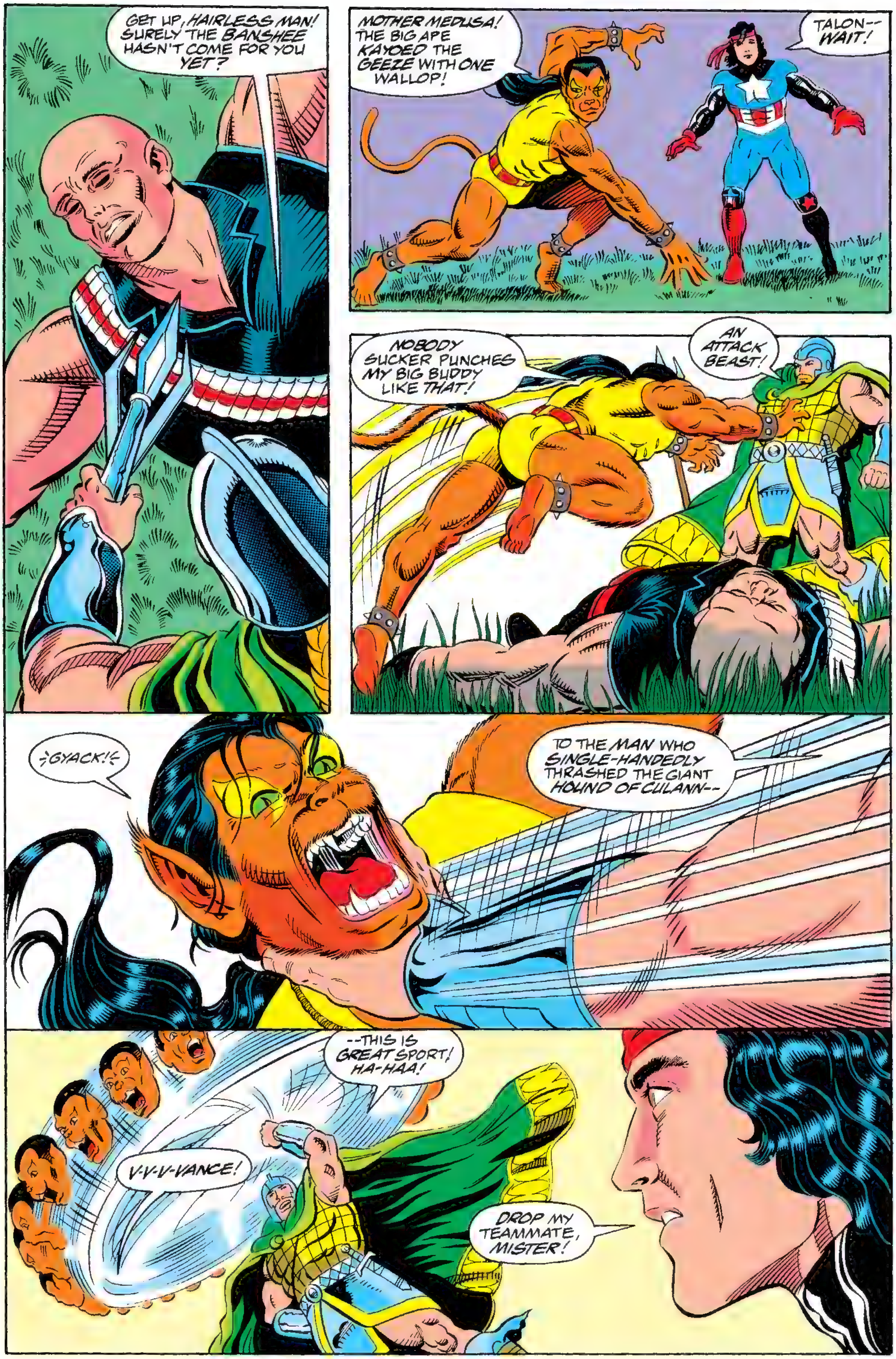

"THE CALLIGRAPHER CONCLUDED HIS ENTRIES WITH A GRIM AND DETAILED VISION OF HIS OWN DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE MARTIANS!
"THE BOOK OF KELLS WAS NEVER RECOVERED!"

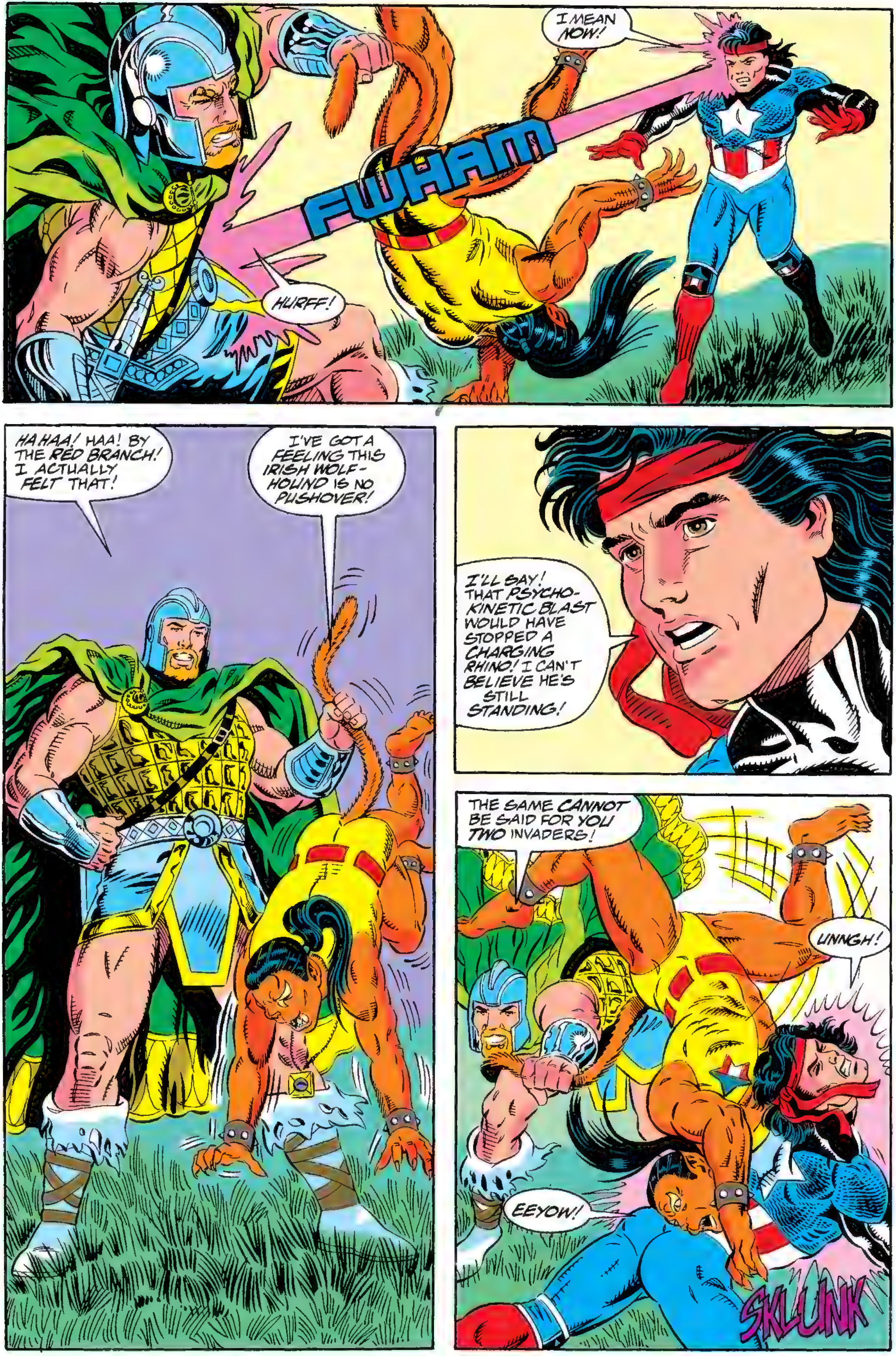

RECENTLY HOWEVER, SOMETHING WAS UNEARTHED BY OUR LITERARY CORPS AS THEY EXCAVATED THE SITE OF THE OLD NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY--
--A CLUE THAT MIGHT REVEAL THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF THE BOOK OF KELLS!
YOU BELIEVE THE TOME HAS ENDURED?
IMAGINE WHAT COULD BE LEARNED FROM SUCH A HISTORIC RELIC! NOT TO MENTION THE INSPIRATION IT WOULD BRING TO THE PEOPLE!
WHAT DID THEY FIND, TARIN?
THE LAST THING EVER PENNED BY THE CALLIGRAPHER. HE SCRAWLED THIS STRANGE DESIGN AS HE WAS MURDERED!
HARKOV'S BONES! THE TRIPLE SPIRAL! OF COURSE! IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE!
ON YOUR FEET, GUARDIANS!
PREPARE TO VISIT A PLACE STEEPED IN SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF SECRECY, MYSTERY AND FOLKLORE...

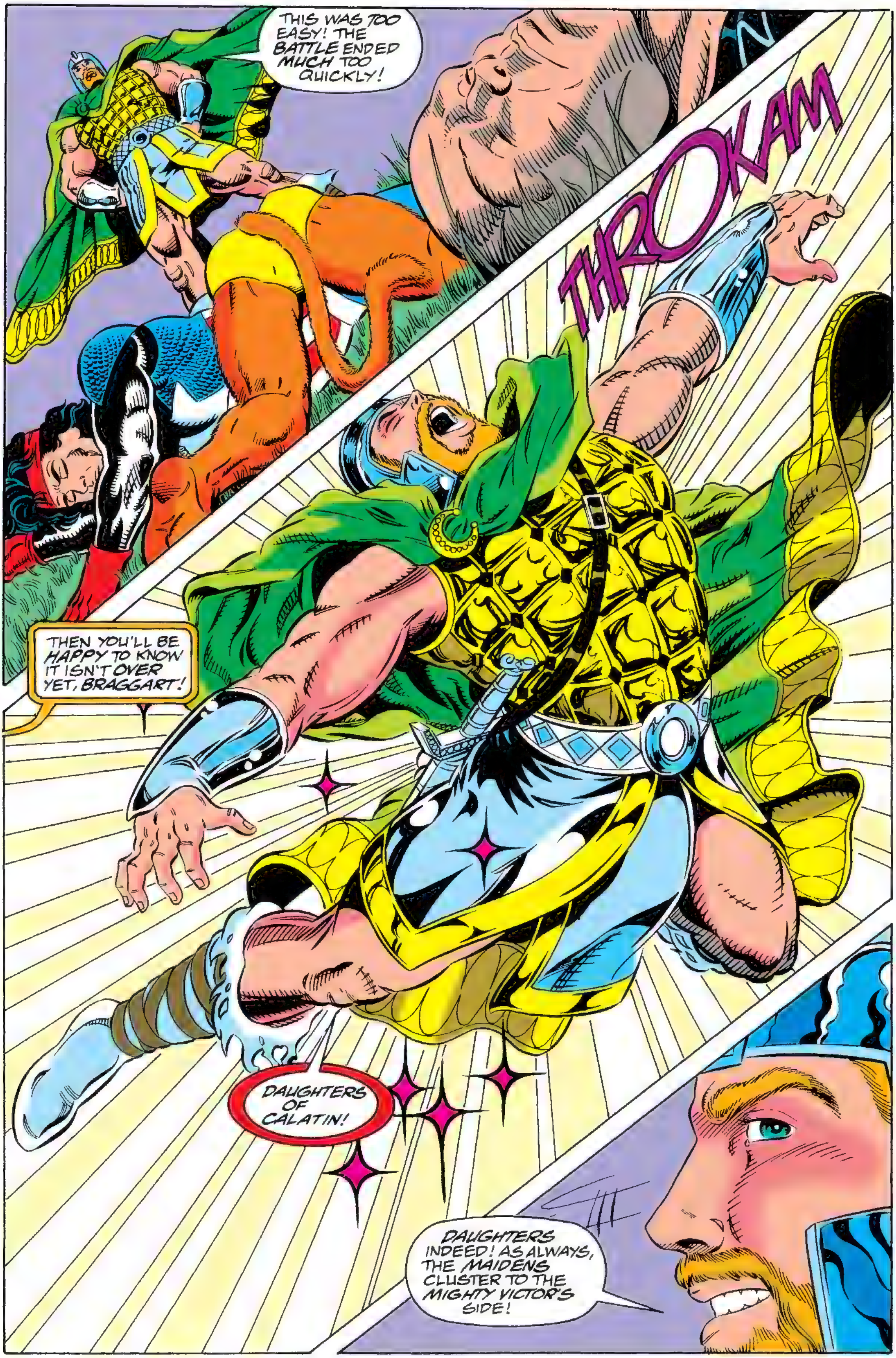

CHAPTER TWO:
"NEWGRANGE!"
"...NEWGRANGE! A PREHISTORIC PASSAGE TOMB FOUND IN THE VALLEY OF THE BOYNE RIVER IN IRELAND!
"OLDER THAN THE PYRAMIDS! BUILT LONG BEFORE STONEHENGE!
"THIS MASSIVE STONE AND SOIL STRUCTURE WAS ERECTED AROUND 3000 B.C. BY THE PRE-CELTIC INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND."
IT'S BEAUTIFUL... AND A LITTLE EERIE!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, RITA!
STARHAWK! TAKE NIKKI AND YELLOW-JACKET--EXPLORE THE PERIMETER OF THE TOMB!
WHAT'S WRONG, TALON?
EVEN A NOVICE SORCEROR LIKE ME CAN FEEL THE OVERPOWERING SPIRITUALITY OF THIS PLACE!

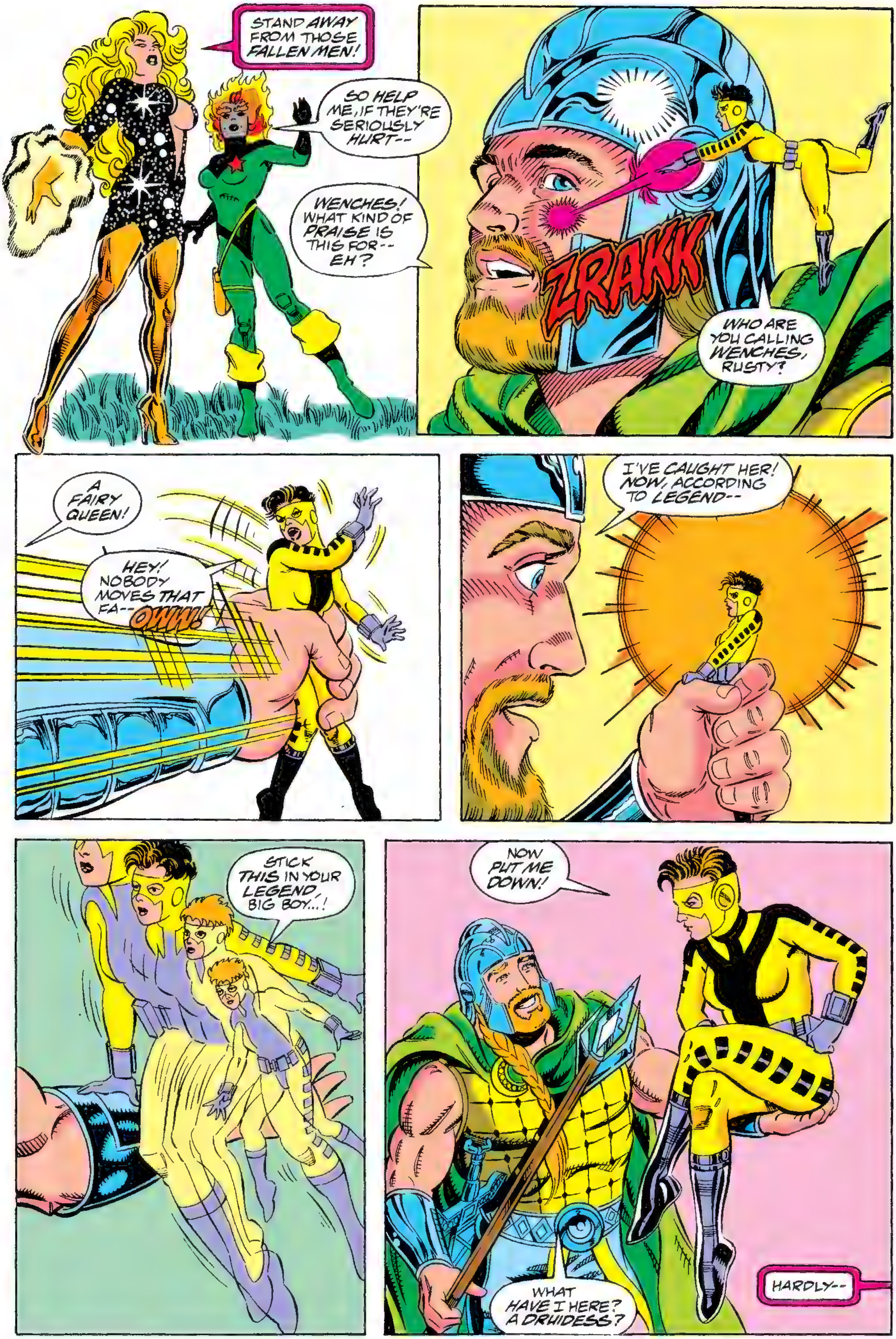

IT'S NO WONDER, TALON! WHEN THE MARTIANS OVERRAN EARTH, THEY SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYED ALL MAN-MADE MONUMENTS.
OUR GREATEST ENGINEERING FEATS-- THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA, THE ACROPOLIS, THE TAJ MAHAL--ALL FELL BEFORE THE SEEK AND DESTROY UNITS!
BUT NEWGRANGE-- SUBTLY NESTLED INTO THE LANDSCAPE--WAS PASSED OVER AND SURVIVED INTACT!
AND STILL LYING AT THE DOOR OF THE TOMB SITS WHAT IS CALLED "THE GUARDIAN STONE," BEARING THE TRIPLE SPIRAL DESIGN THAT TARIN SHOWED US!
GOOD! THAT MEANS THE BOOK IS INSIDE! I HOPE THE LEPRECHAUNS DON'T MIND THAT I FORGOT MY LIBRARY CARD...
WHA-RAMM
UMMMF!

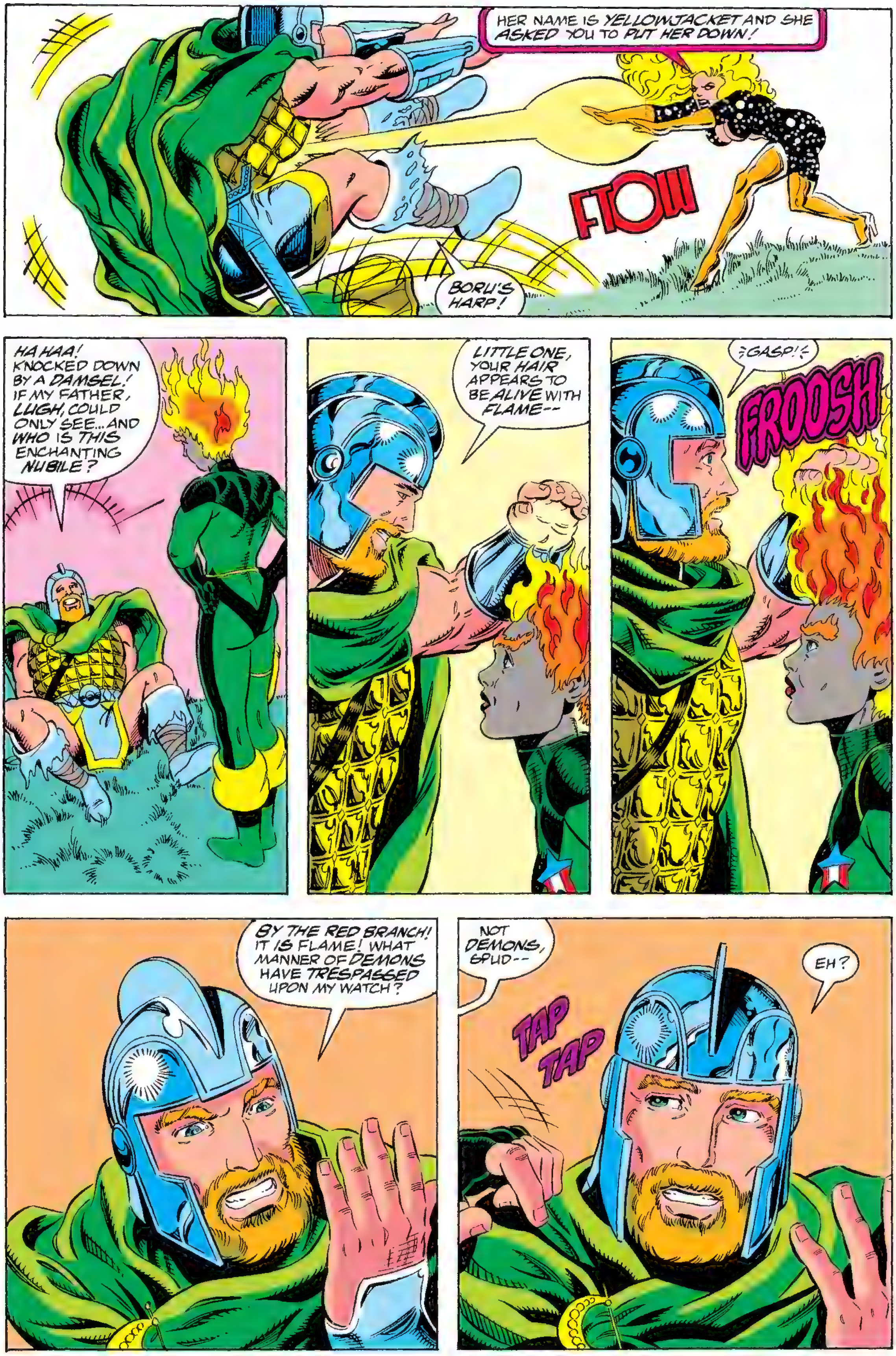

NONE MAY CROSS THE THRESHOLD LEST THEY DEAL WITH THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF ALL TIME!
HE WHO CARRIES THE GREAT SPEAR "GAE-BOLG"--
--CUCHULAIN! THE IRISH WOLFHOUND!

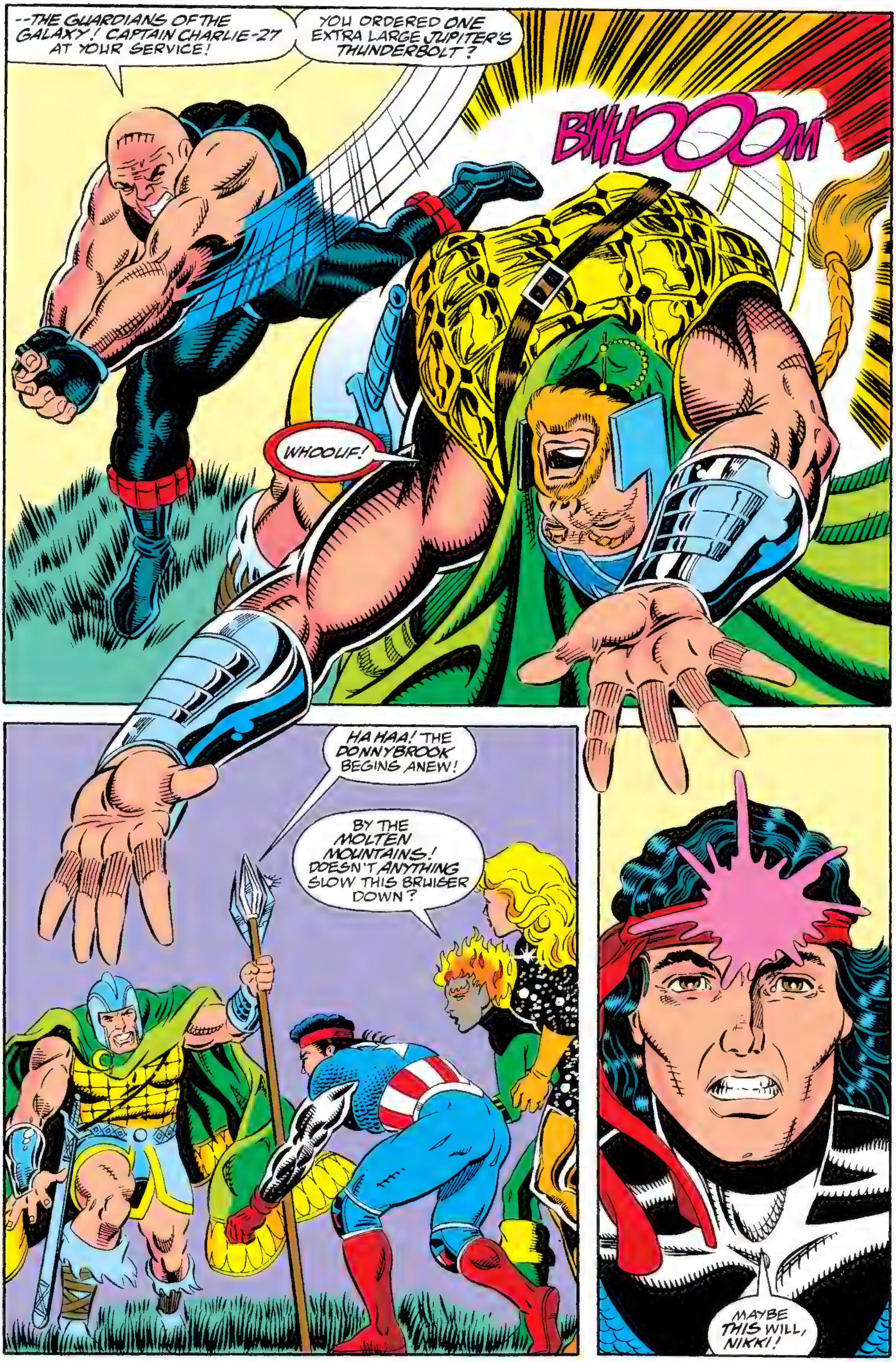

GET UP, HAIRLESS MAN! SURELY THE BANSHEE HASN'T COME FOR YOU YET?
MOTHER MEDUSA! THE BIG APE KAYOED THE GEEZE WITH ONE WALLOP!
TALON-- WAIT!
NOBODY SUCKER PUNCHES MY BIG BUDDY LIKE THAT!
AN ATTACK BEAST!
GYACK!
TO THE MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY THRASHED THE GIANT HOUND OF CULANN--
--THIS IS GREAT SPORT! HA-HAA!
V-V-V-VANCE!
DROP MY TEAMMATE, MISTER!

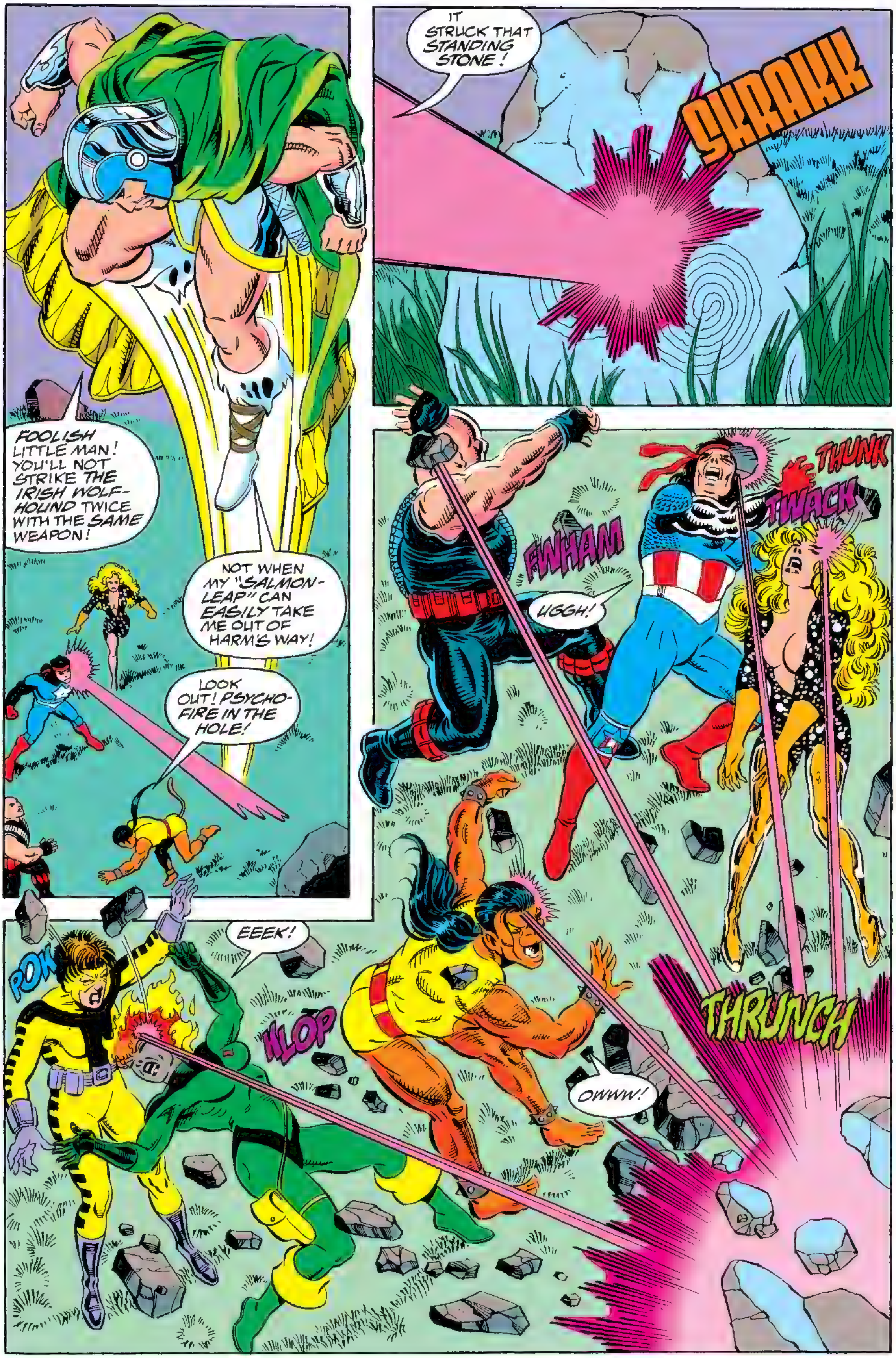

I MEAN NOW!
FWHAM
HURFF!
HA HAA! HAA! BY THE RED BRANCH! I ACTUALLY FELT THAT!
I'VE GOT A FEELING THIS IRISH WOLF-HOUND IS NO PUSHOVER!
I'LL SAY! THAT PSYCHO-KINETIC BLAST WOULD HAVE STOPPED A CHARGING RHINO! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STILL STANDING!
THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR YOU TWO INVADERS!
UNNGH!
EEYOW!
SKLUNK

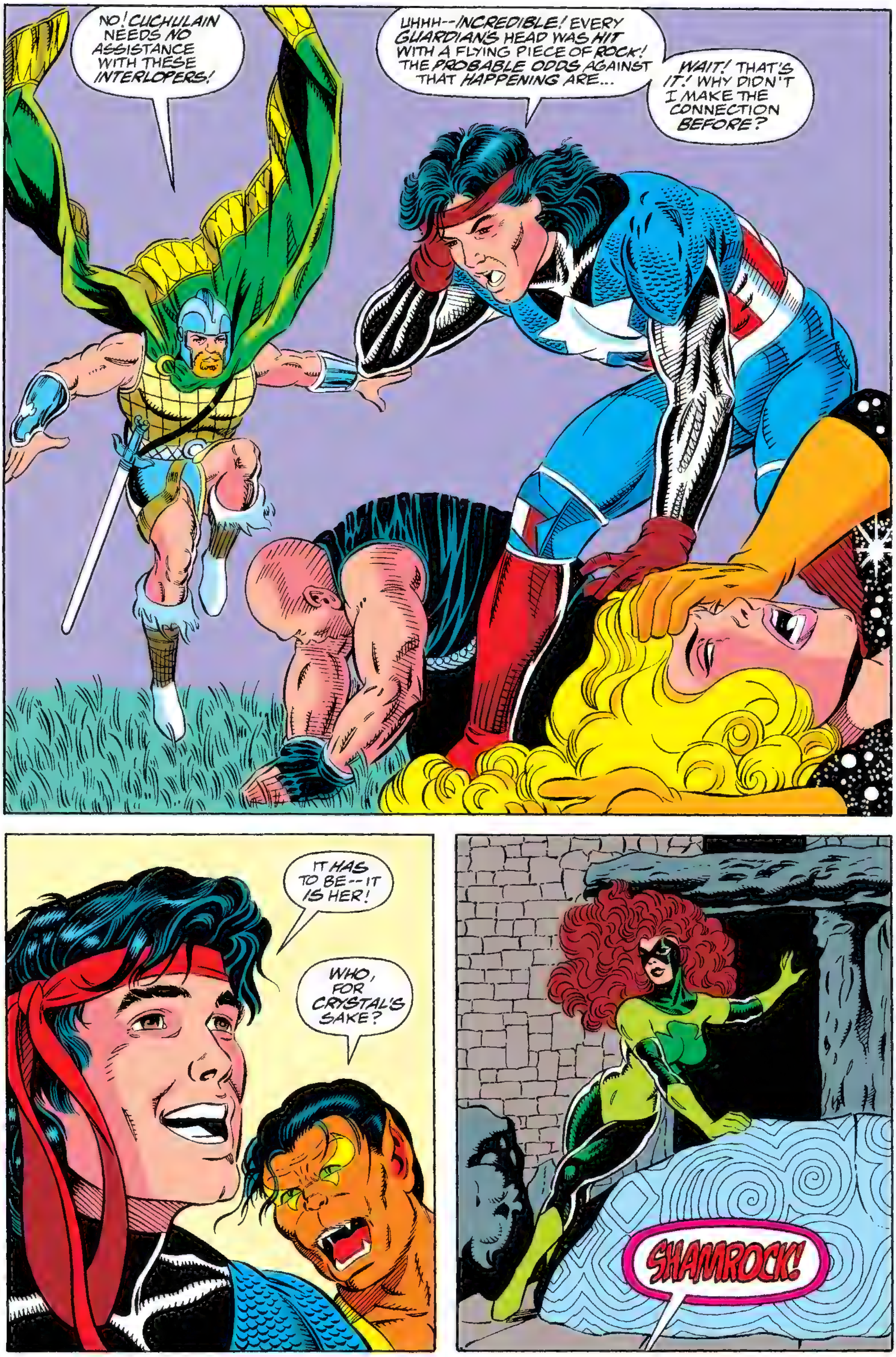

THIS WAS TOO EASY! THE BATTLE ENDED MUCH TOO QUICKLY!
THROKAM
THEN YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW IT ISN'T OVER YET, BRAGGART!
DAUGHTERS OF CALATIN!
DAUGHTERS INDEED! AS ALWAYS, THE MAIDENS CLUSTER TO THE MIGHTY VICTOR'S SIDE!

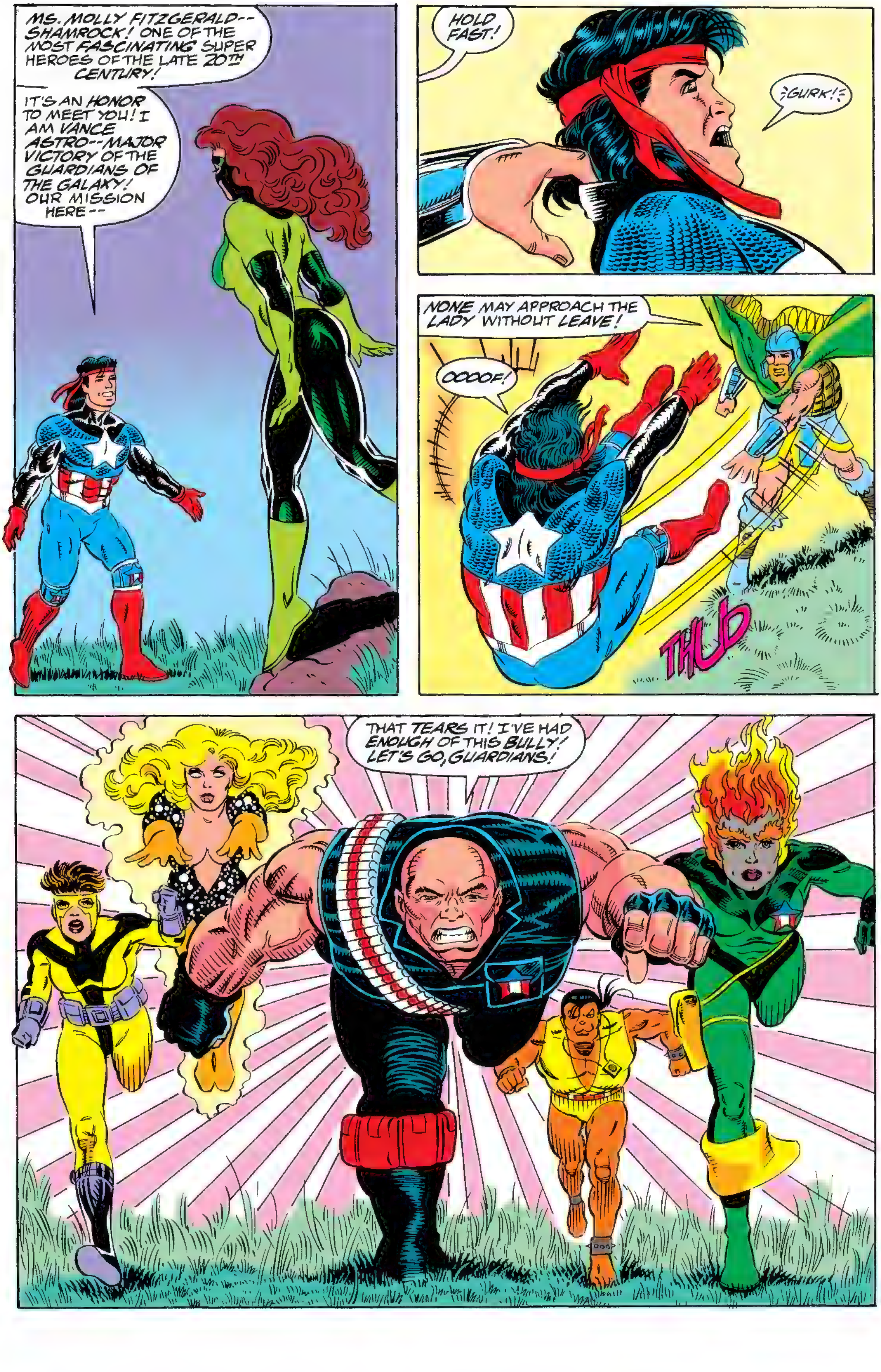

STAND AWAY FROM THOSE FALLEN MEN!
SO HELP ME, IF THEY'RE SERIOUSLY HURT--
WENCHES! WHAT KIND OF PRAISE IS THIS FOR-- EH?
ZRAKK
WHO ARE YOU CALLING WENCHES, RUSTY?
A FAIRY QUEEN!
HEY! NOBODY MOVES THAT FA-- OWW!
I'VE CAUGHT HER! NOW, ACCORDING TO LEGEND--
STICK THIS IN YOUR LEGEND, BIG BOY...!
NOW PUT ME DOWN!
WHAT HAVE I HERE? A DRUIDESS?
HARDLY--

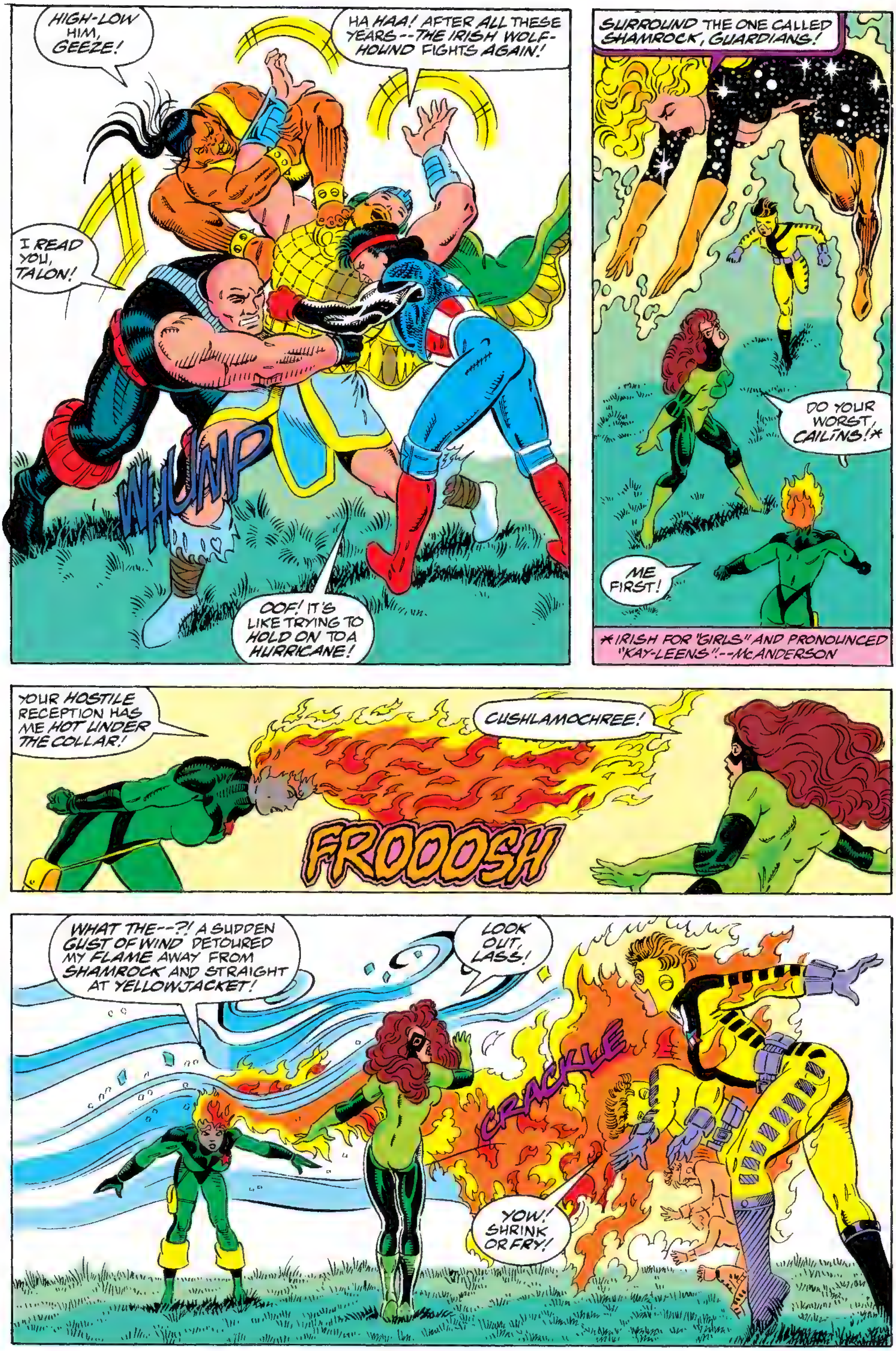

HER NAME IS YELLOWJACKET AND SHE ASKED YOU TO PUT HER DOWN!
FTOW
BORU'S HARP!
HA HAA! KNOCKED DOWN BY A DAMSEL! IF MY FATHER, LUGH, COULD ONLY SEE...AND WHO IS THIS ENCHANTING NUBILE?
LITTLE ONE, YOUR HAIR APPEARS TO BE ALIVE WITH FLAME--
GASP!
FROOSH
BY THE RED BRANCH! IT IS FLAME! WHAT MANNER OF DEMONS HAVE TRESPASSED UPON MY WATCH?
NOT DEMONS, SPUD--
TAP TAP
EH?

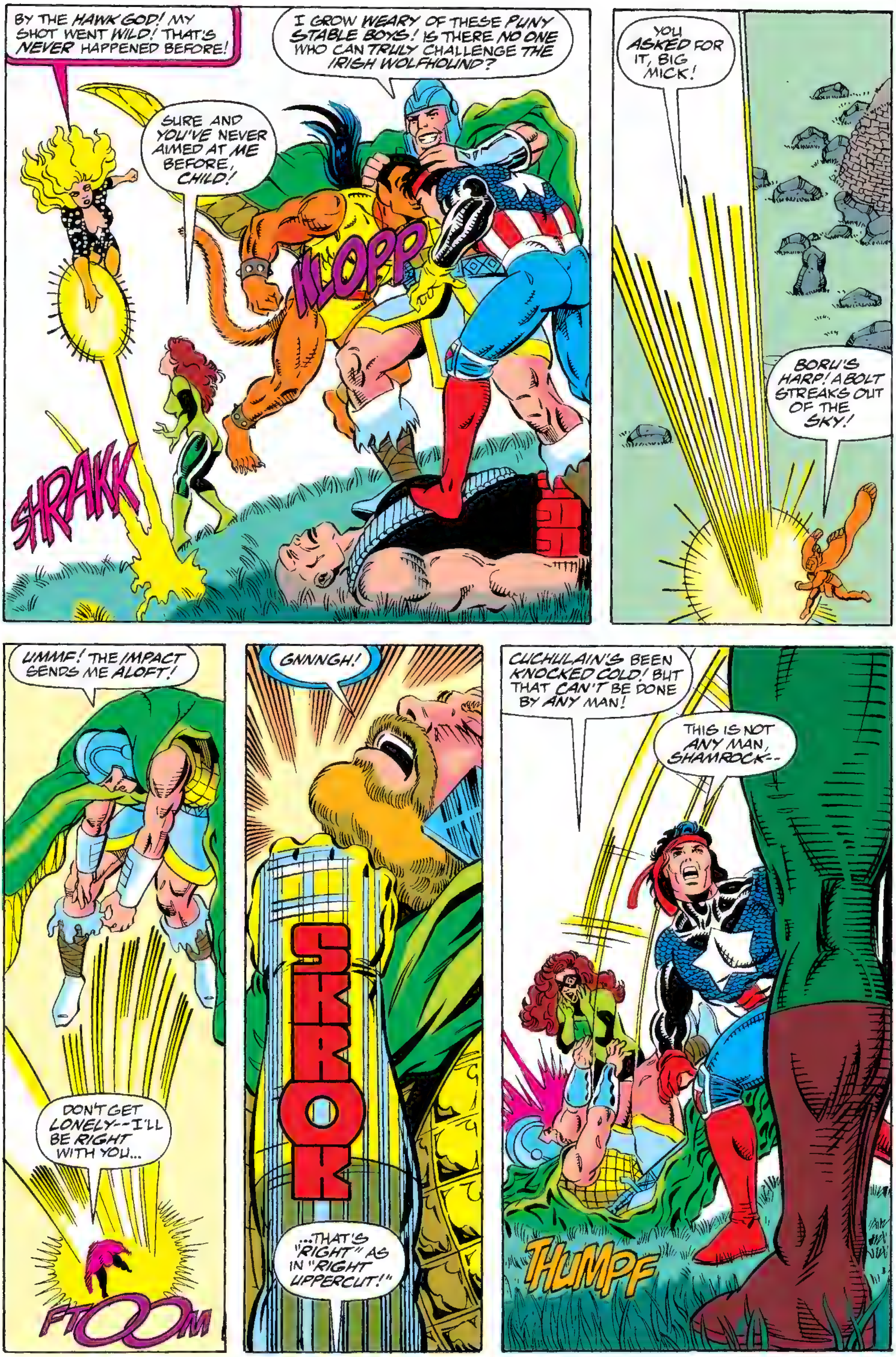

--THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! CAPTAIN CHARLIE-27 AT YOUR SERVICE!
YOU ORDERED ONE EXTRA LARGE JUPITER'S THUNDERBOLT?
BWHOOOOM
WHOOUF!
HA HAA! THE DONNYBROOK BEGINS ANEW!
BY THE MOLTEN MOUNTAINS! DOESN'T ANYTHING SLOW THIS BRUISER DOWN?
MAYBE THIS WILL, NIKKI!

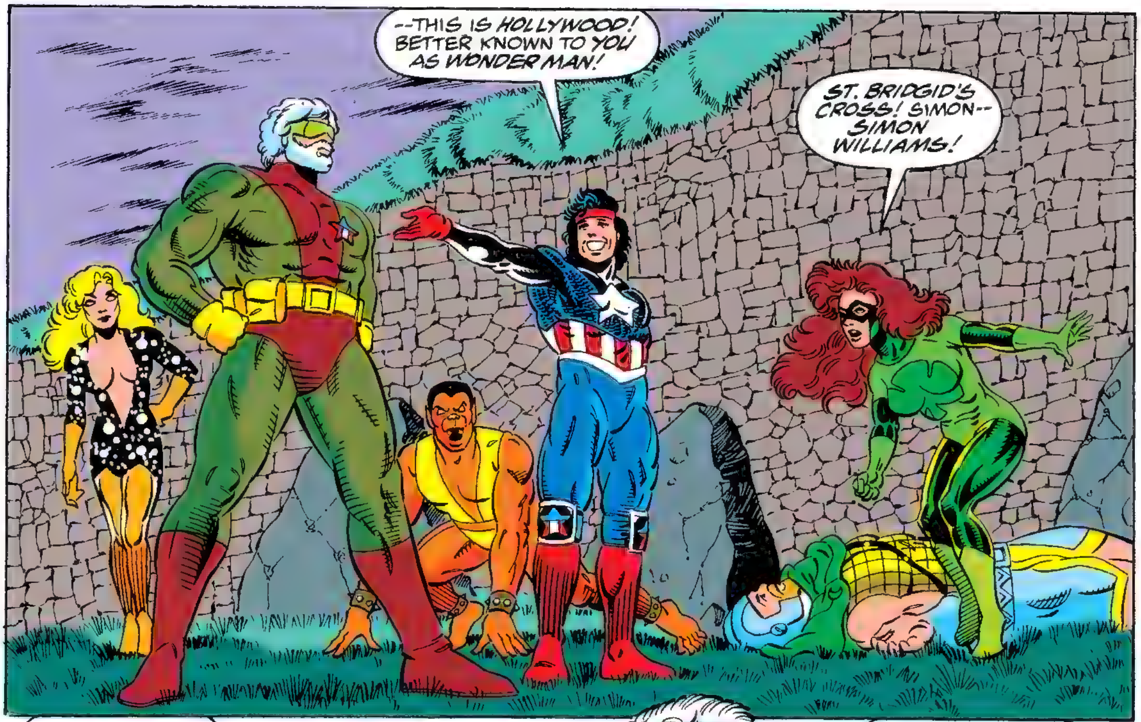

FOOLISH LITTLE MAN! YOU'LL NOT STRIKE THE IRISH WOLFHOUND TWICE WITH THE SAME WEAPON!
NOT WHEN MY "SALMON-LEAP" CAN EASILY TAKE ME OUT OF HARM'S WAY!
LOOK OUT! PSYCHO-FIRE IN THE HOLE!
IT STRUCK THAT STANDING STONE!
SKRAKK
THUNK
TWACK
FWHAM
UGGH!
POK
EEEK!
HLOP
OWWW!
THRUNCH

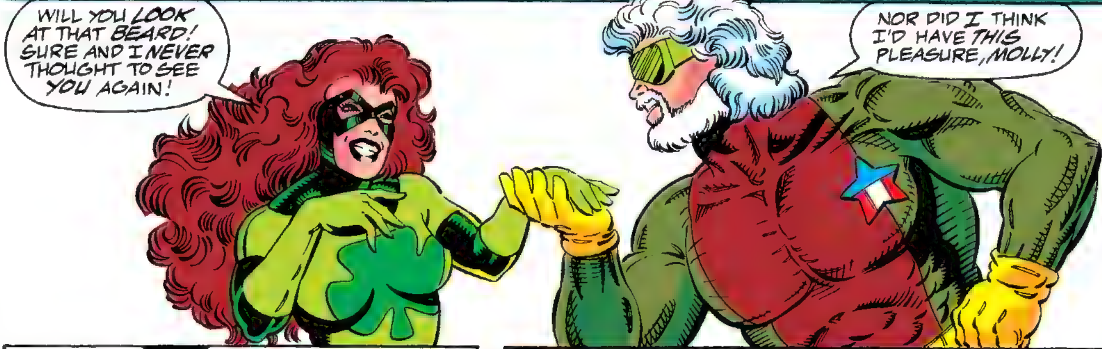

NO! CUCHULAIN NEEDS NO ASSISTANCE WITH THESE INTERLOPERS!
UHHH--INCREDIBLE! EVERY GUARDIAN'S HEAD WAS HIT WITH A FLYING PIECE OF ROCK! THE PROBABLE ODDS AGAINST THAT HAPPENING ARE...
WAIT! THAT'S IT! WHY DIDN'T I MAKE THE CONNECTION BEFORE?
IT HAS TO BE--IT IS HER!
WHO, FOR CRYSTAL'S SAKE?
SHAMROCK!

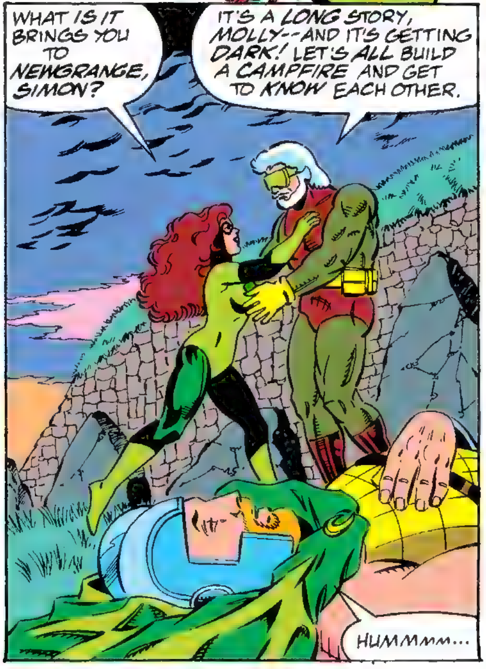

MS. MOLLY FITZGERALD--SHAMROCK! ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING SUPER HEROES OF THE LATE 20TH CENTURY!
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU! I AM VANCE ASTRO--MAJOR VICTORY OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! OUR MISSION HERE--
HOLD FAST!
GURK!
NONE MAY APPROACH THE LADY WITHOUT LEAVE!
OOOOF!
THUD
THAT TEARS IT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BULLY! LET'S GO, GUARDIANS!

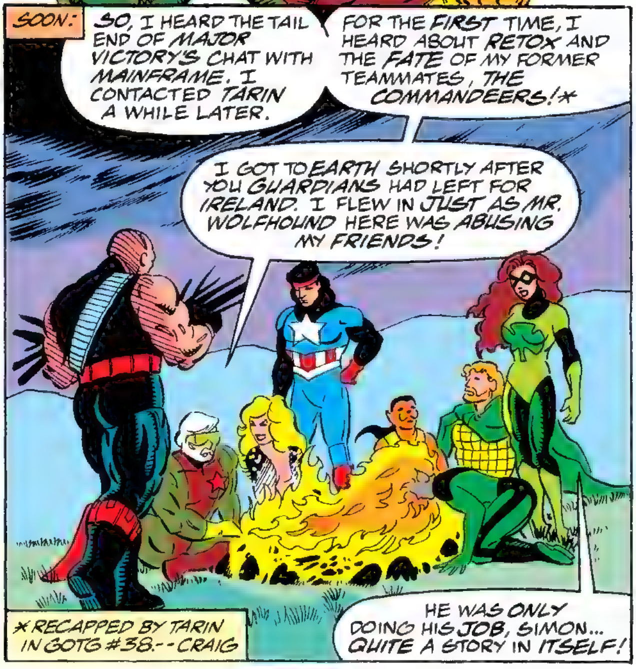

HIGH-LOW HIM, GEEZE!
HA HAA! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--THE IRISH WOLFHOUND FIGHTS AGAIN!
I READ YOU, TALON!
WHUMP
OOF! IT'S LIKE TRYING TO HOLD ON TO A HURRICANE!
SURROUND THE ONE CALLED SHAMROCK, GUARDIANS!
DO YOUR WORST, CAILINS!*
ME FIRST!
*IRISH FOR "GIRLS" AND PRONOUNCED "KAY-LEENS".--McANDERSON
YOUR HOSTILE RECEPTION HAS ME HOT UNDER THE COLLAR!
CUSHLAMOCHREE!
FROOOSH
WHAT THE--?! A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND DETOURED MY FLAME AWAY FROM SHAMROCK AND STRAIGHT AT YELLOWJACKET!
LOOK OUT, LASS!
CRACKLE
YOW! SHRINK OR FRY!

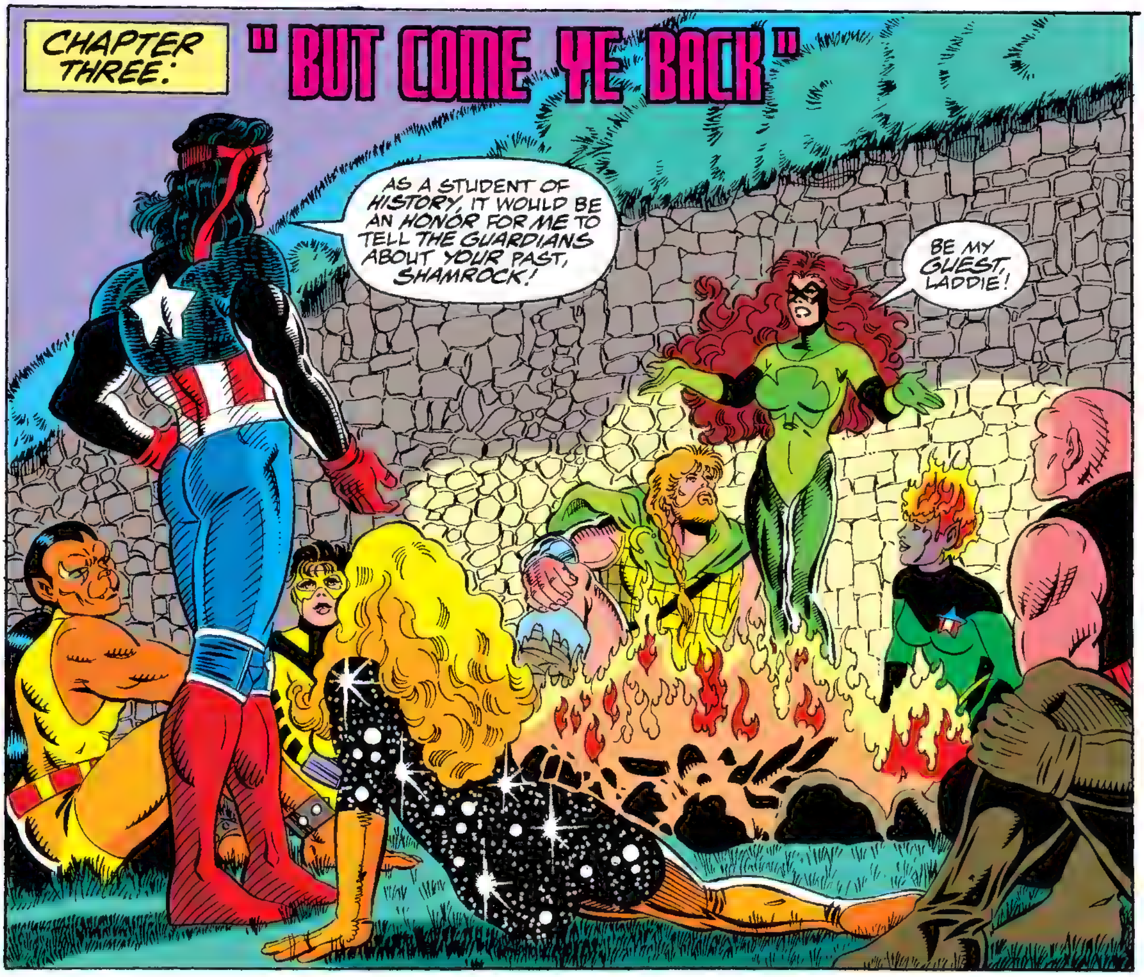

BY THE HAWK GOD! MY SHOT WENT WILD! THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
I GROW WEARY OF THESE PUNY STABLE BOYS! IS THERE NO ONE WHO CAN TRULY CHALLENGE THE IRISH WOLFHOUND?
SURE AND YOU'VE NEVER AIMED AT ME BEFORE, CHILD!
KLOPP
SHRAKK
YOU ASKED FOR IT, BIG MICK!
BORU'S HARP! A BOLT STREAKS OUT OF THE SKY!
UMMF! THE IMPACT SENDS ME ALOFT!
DON'T GET LONELY--I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU...
FTOOM
GNNNGH!
SKROK
...THAT'S "RIGHT" AS IN "RIGHT UPPERCUT!"
CUCHULAIN'S BEEN KNOCKED COLD! BUT THAT CAN'T BE DONE BY ANY MAN!
THIS IS NOT ANY MAN, SHAMROCK--
THUMPF

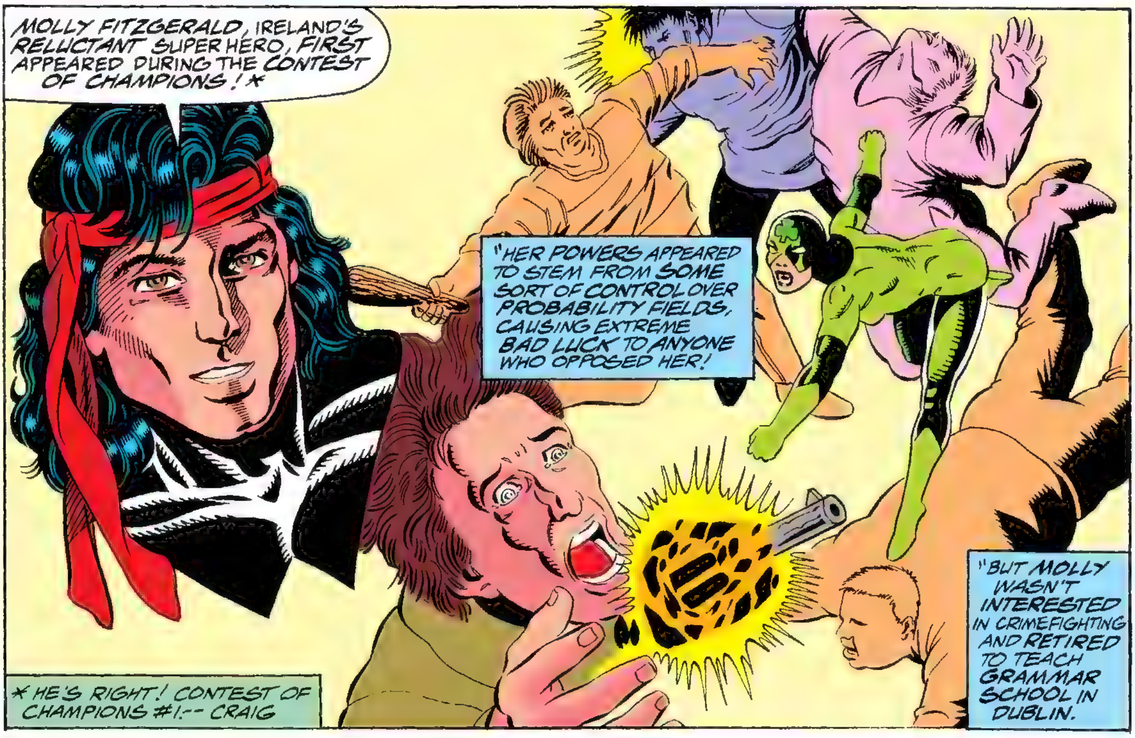

--THIS IS HOLLYWOOD! BETTER KNOWN TO YOU AS WONDER MAN!
ST. BRIDGID'S CROSS! SIMON-- SIMON WILLIAMS!

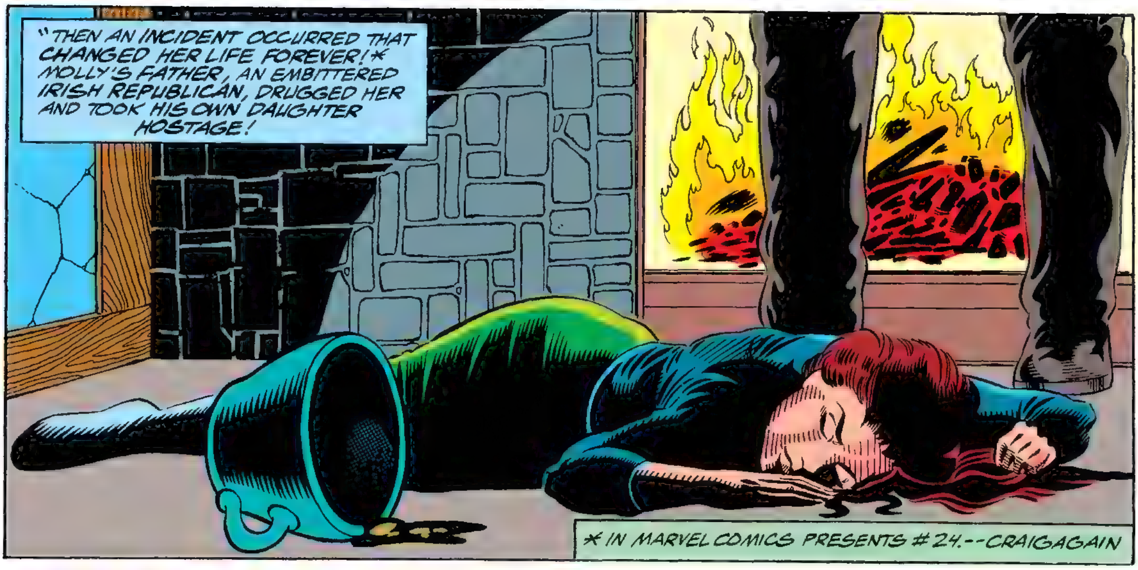

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT BEARD! SURE AND I NEVER THOUGHT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
NOR DID I THINK I'D HAVE THIS PLEASURE, MOLLY!

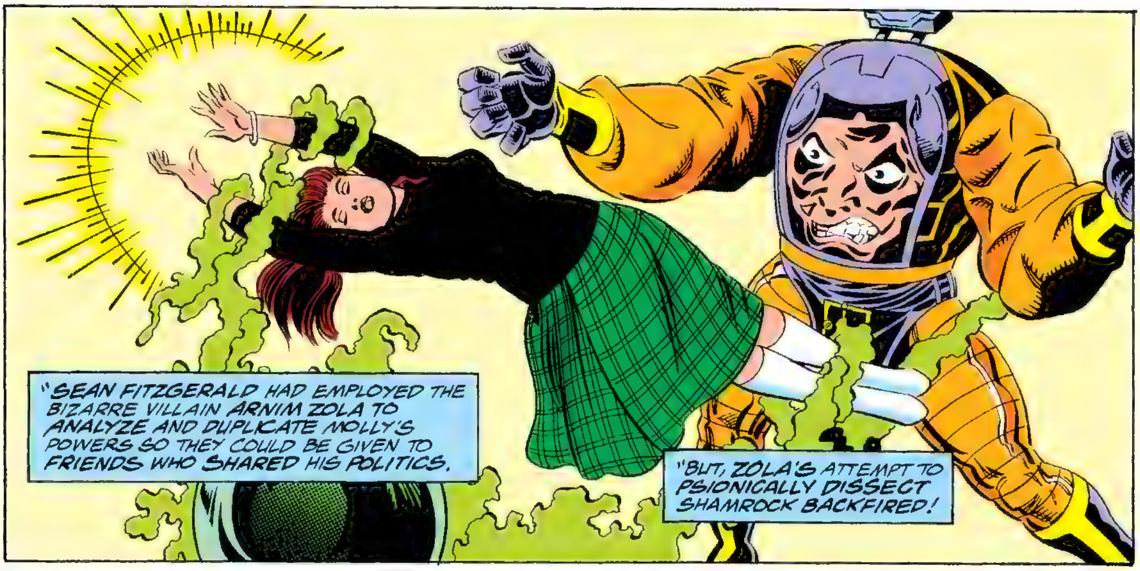

WHAT IS IT BRINGS YOU TO NEWGRANGE, SIMON?
IT'S A LONG STORY, MOLLY--AND IT'S GETTING DARK! LET'S ALL BUILD A CAMPFIRE AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
HUMMMM...

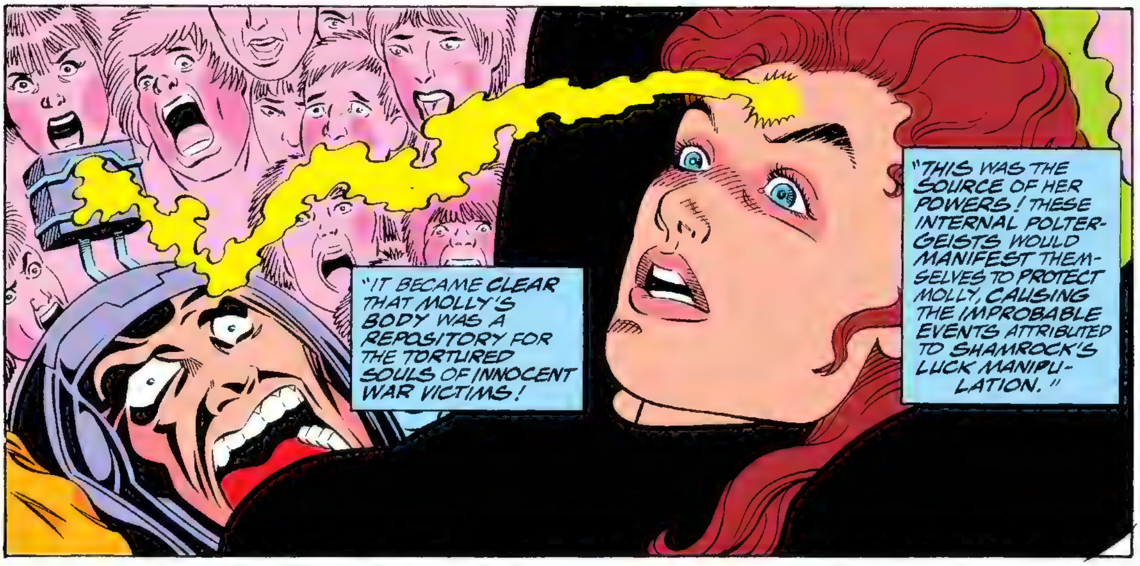

SOON:
SO, I HEARD THE TAIL END OF MAJOR VICTORY'S CHAT WITH MAINFRAME. I CONTACTED TARIN A WHILE LATER.
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HEARD ABOUT RETOX AND THE FATE OF MY FORMER TEAMMATES, THE COMMANDEERS!*
I GOT TO EARTH SHORTLY AFTER YOU GUARDIANS HAD LEFT FOR IRELAND. I FLEW IN JUST AS MR. WOLFHOUND HERE WAS ABUSING MY FRIENDS!
*RECAPPED BY TARIN IN GOTG #38.--CRAIG
HE WAS ONLY DOING HIS JOB, SIMON... QUITE A STORY IN ITSELF!

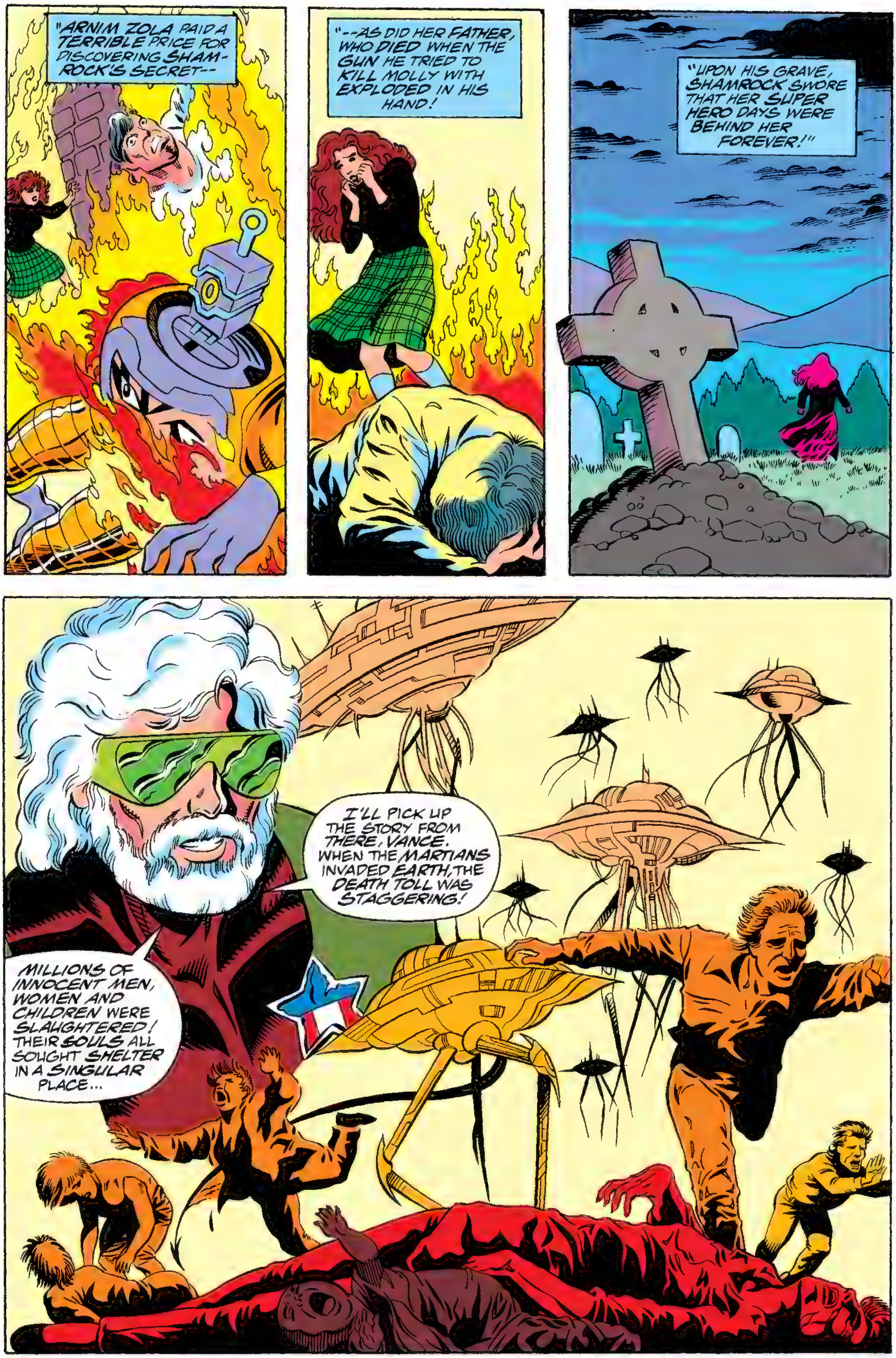

CHAPTER THREE:
"BUT COME YE BACK"
AS A STUDENT OF HISTORY, IT WOULD BE AN HONOR FOR ME TO TELL THE GUARDIANS ABOUT YOUR PAST, SHAMROCK!
BE MY GUEST, LADDIE!

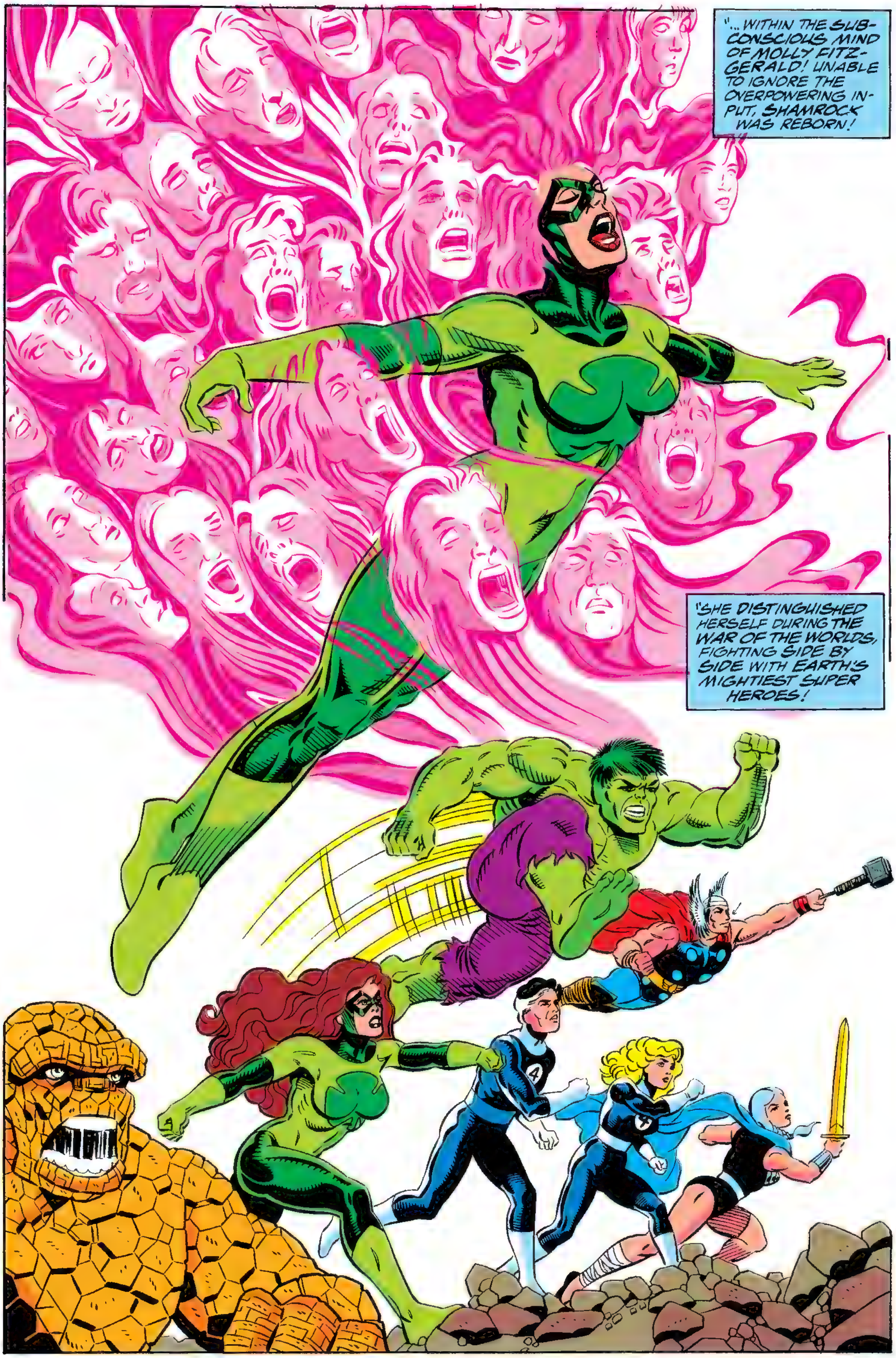

MOLLY FITZGERALD, IRELAND'S RELUCTANT SUPER HERO, FIRST APPEARED DURING THE CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS! *
"HER POWERS APPEARED TO STEM FROM SOME SORT OF CONTROL OVER PROBABILITY FIELDS, CAUSING EXTREME BAD LUCK TO ANYONE WHO OPPOSED HER!
"BUT MOLLY WASN'T INTERESTED IN CRIMEFIGHTING AND RETIRED TO TEACH GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN DUBLIN.
* HE'S RIGHT! CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS #1.-- CRAIG

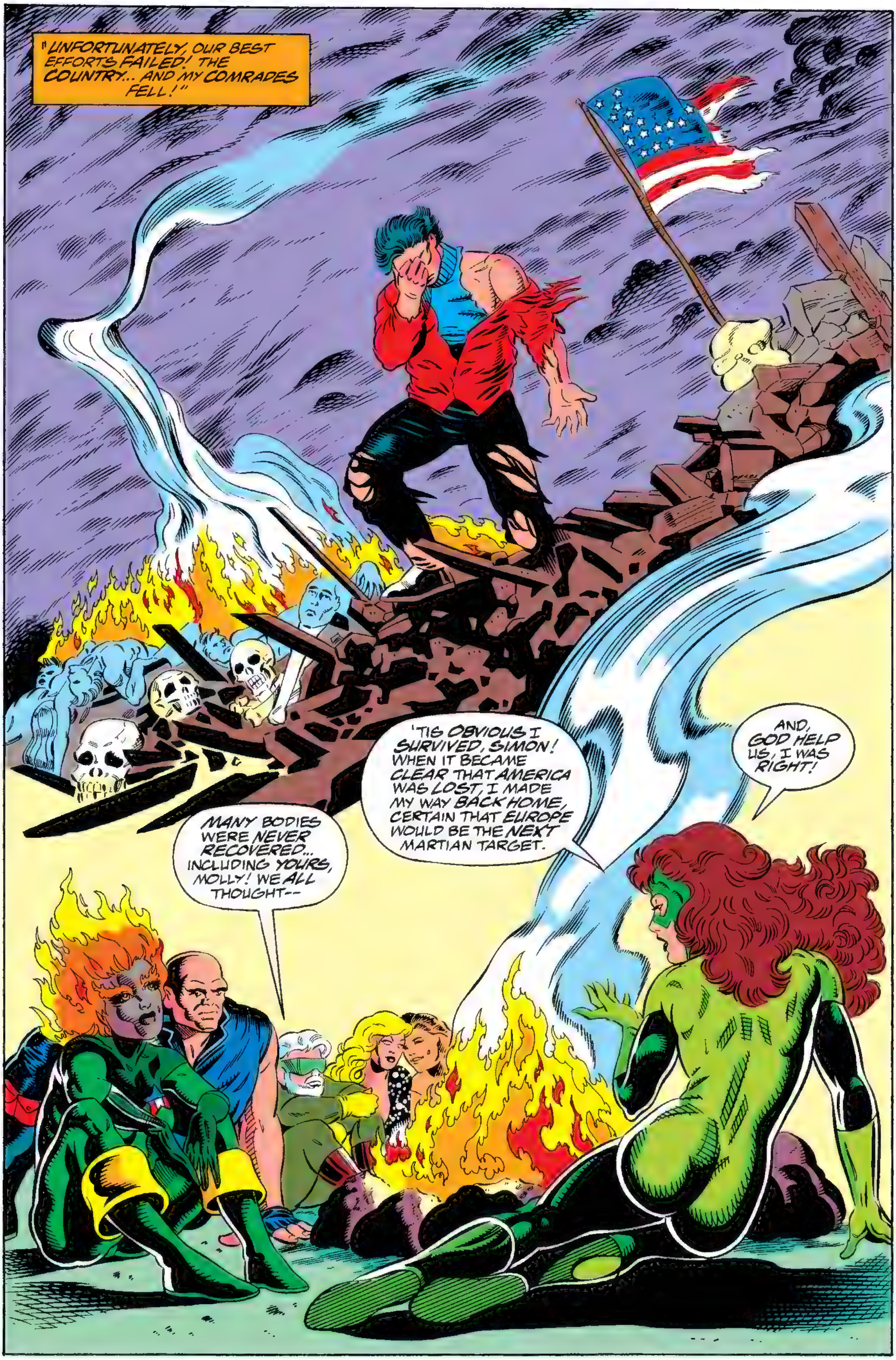

"THEN AN INCIDENT OCCURRED THAT CHANGED HER LIFE FOREVER!* MOLLY'S FATHER, AN EMBITTERED IRISH REPUBLICAN, DRUGGED HER AND TOOK HIS OWN DAUGHTER HOSTAGE!
* IN MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #24.--CRAIGAGAIN

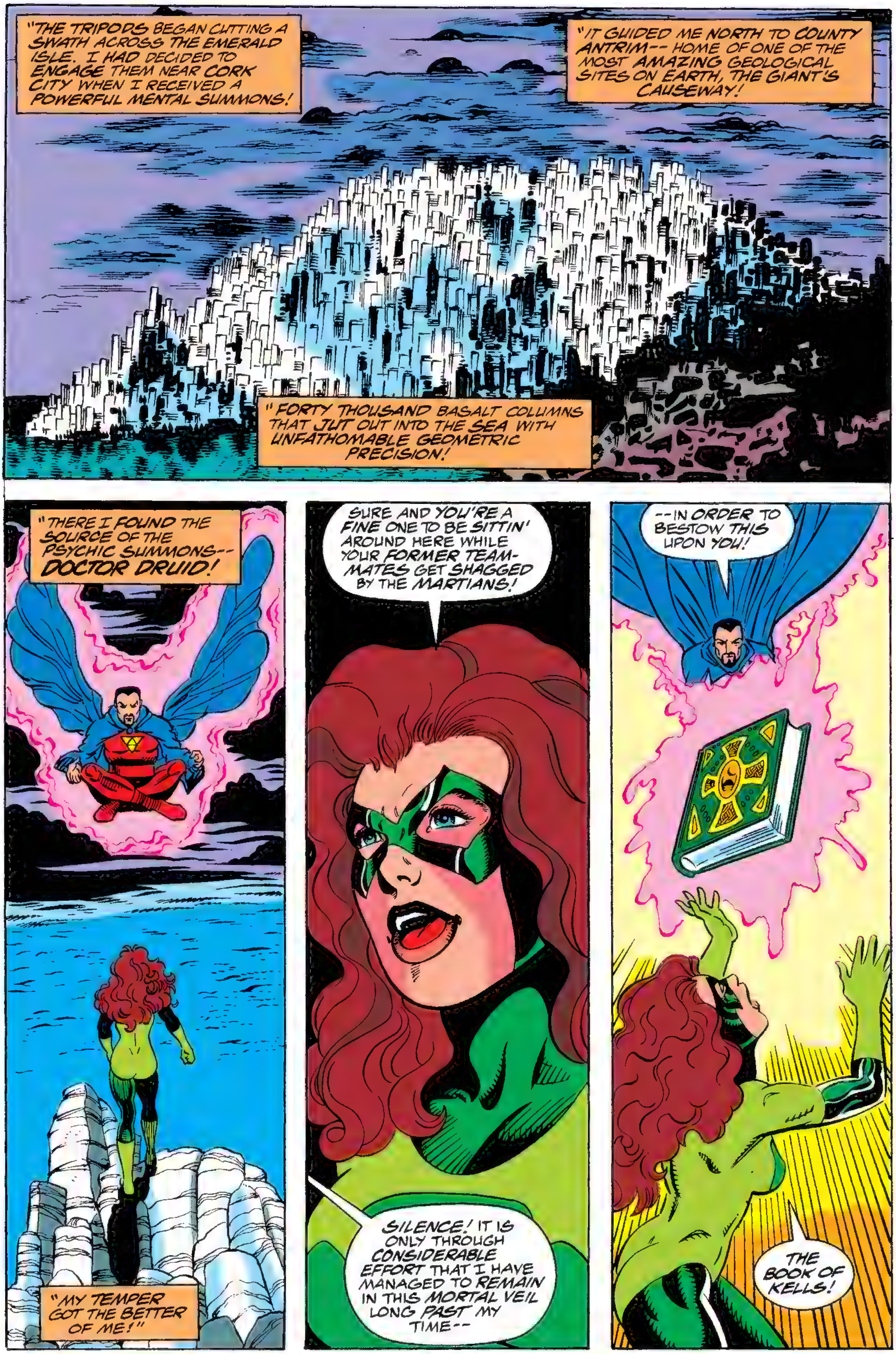

"SEAN FITZGERALD HAD EMPLOYED THE BIZARRE VILLAIN ARNIM ZOLA TO ANALYZE AND DUPLICATE MOLLY'S POWERS SO THEY COULD BE GIVEN TO FRIENDS WHO SHARED HIS POLITICS.
"BUT, ZOLA'S ATTEMPT TO PSIONICALLY DISSECT SHAMROCK BACKFIRED!

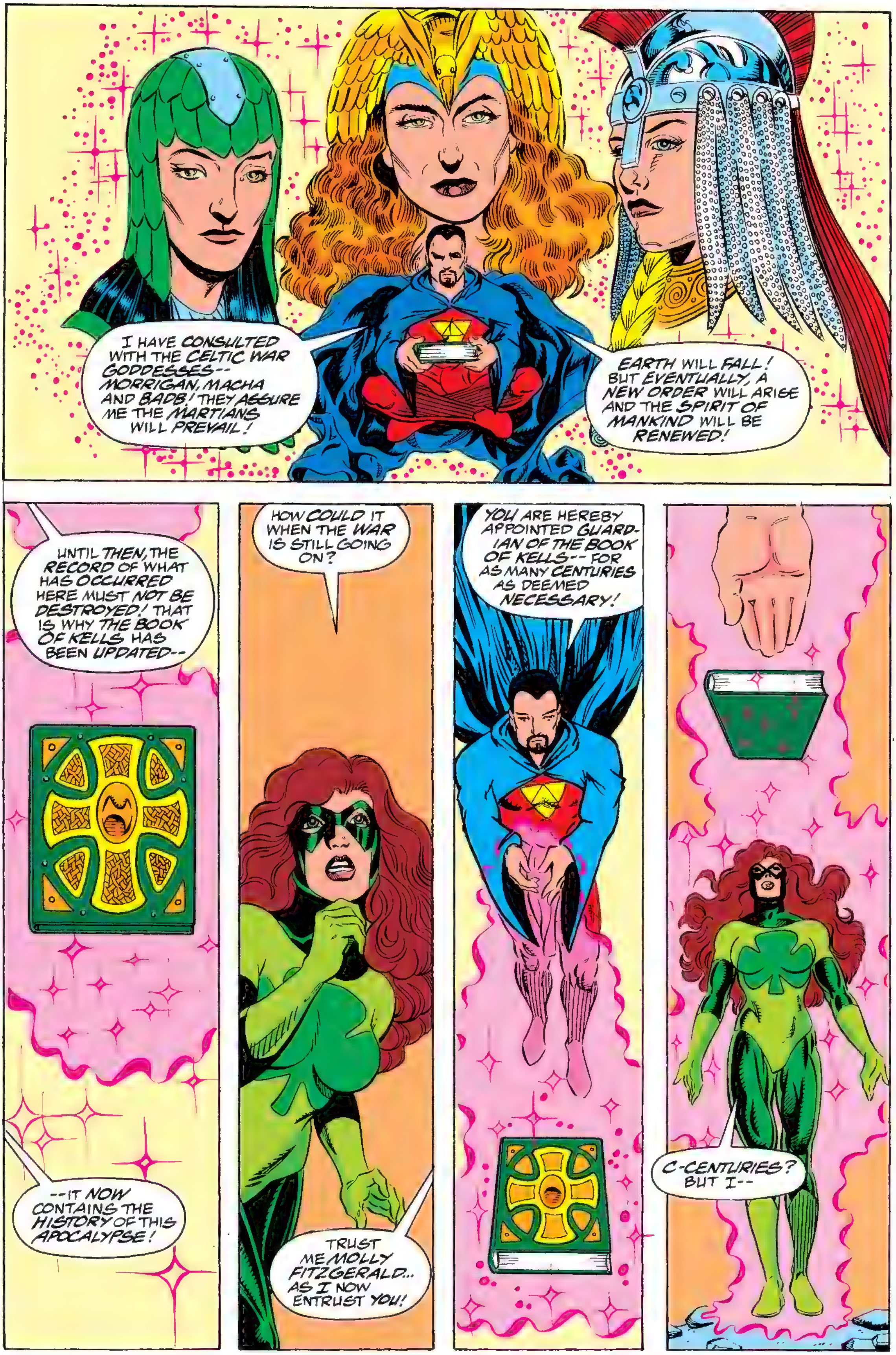

"IT BECAME CLEAR THAT MOLLY'S BODY WAS A REPOSITORY FOR THE TORTURED SOULS OF INNOCENT WAR VICTIMS!
"THIS WAS THE SOURCE OF HER POWERS! THESE INTERNAL POLTERGEISTS WOULD MANIFEST THEMSELVES TO PROTECT MOLLY, CAUSING THE IMPROBABLE EVENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SHAMROCK'S LUCK MANIPULATION."

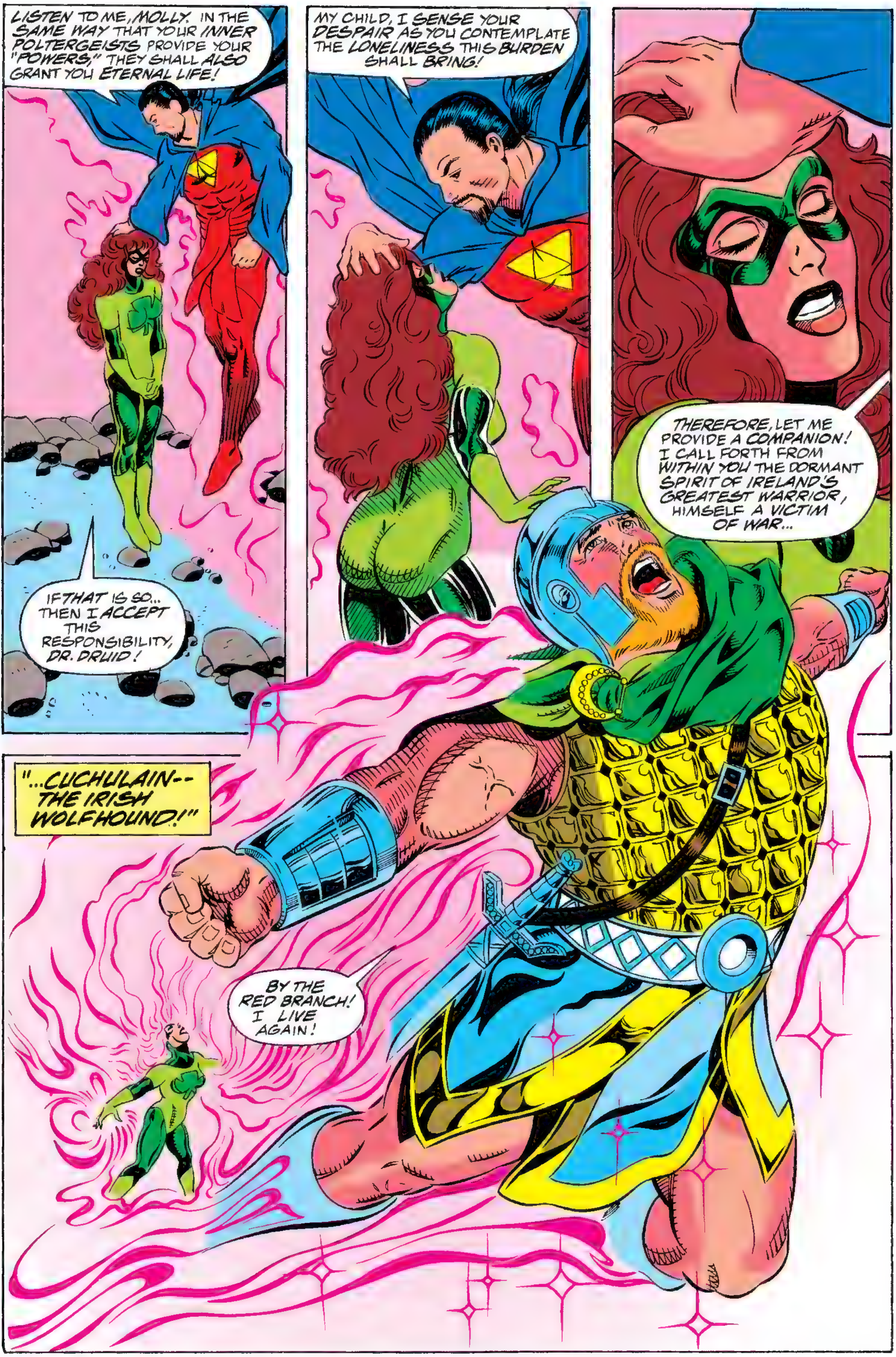

"ARNIM ZOLA PAID A TERRIBLE PRICE FOR DISCOVERING SHAMROCK'S SECRET--
"--AS DID HER FATHER, WHO DIED WHEN THE GUN HE TRIED TO KILL MOLLY WITH EXPLODED IN HIS HAND!
"UPON HIS GRAVE, SHAMROCK SWORE THAT HER SUPER HERO DAYS WERE BEHIND HER FOREVER!"
I'LL PICK UP THE STORY FROM THERE, VANCE. WHEN THE MARTIANS INVADED EARTH, THE DEATH TOLL WAS STAGGERING!
MILLIONS OF INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE SLAUGHTERED! THEIR SOULS ALL SOUGHT SHELTER IN A SINGULAR PLACE...

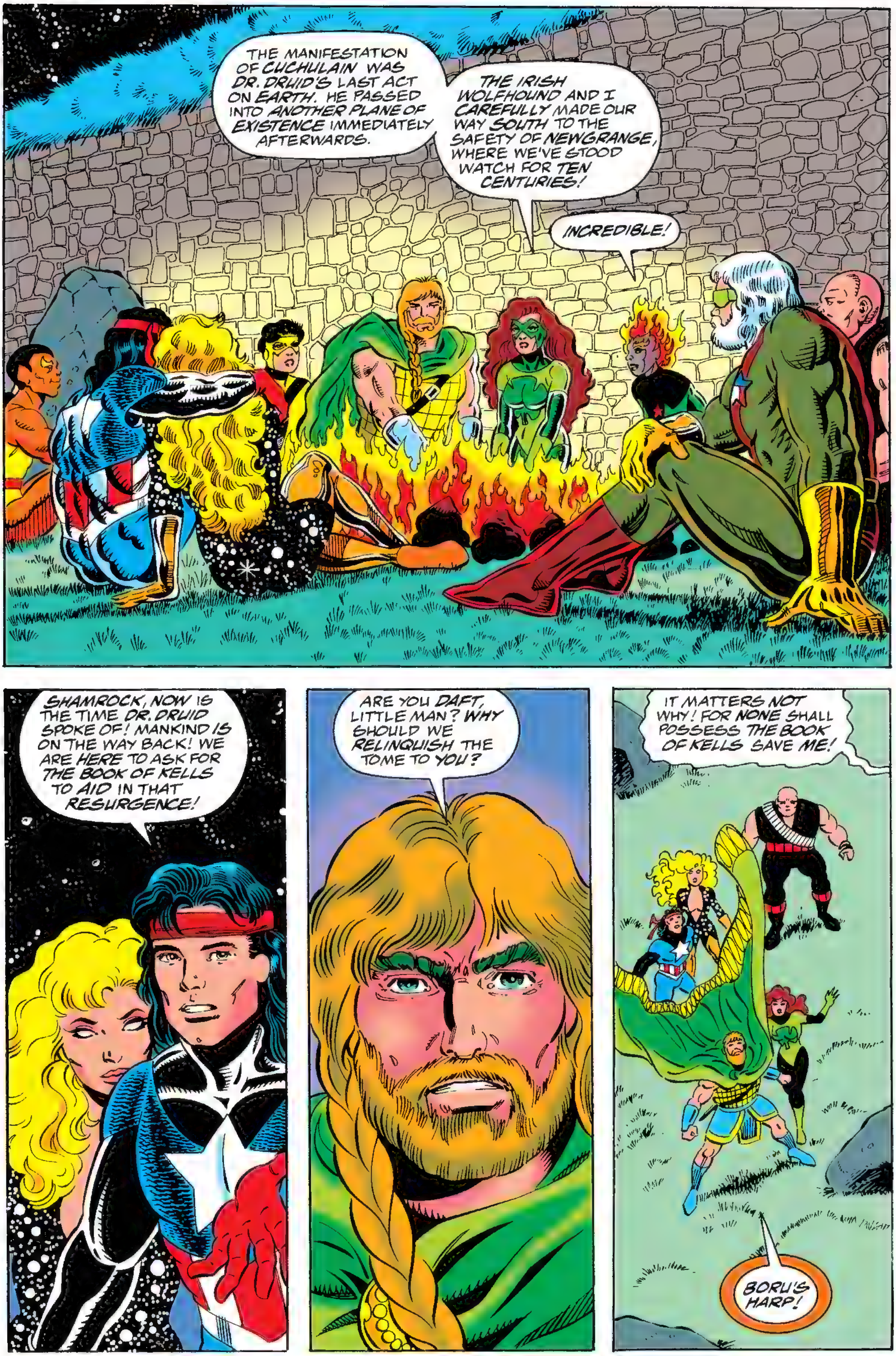

"...WITHIN THE SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND OF MOLLY FITZGERALD! UNABLE TO IGNORE THE OVERPOWERING INPUT, SHAMROCK WAS REBORN!
"SHE DISTINGUISHED HERSELF DURING THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH EARTH'S MIGHTIEST SUPER HEROES!

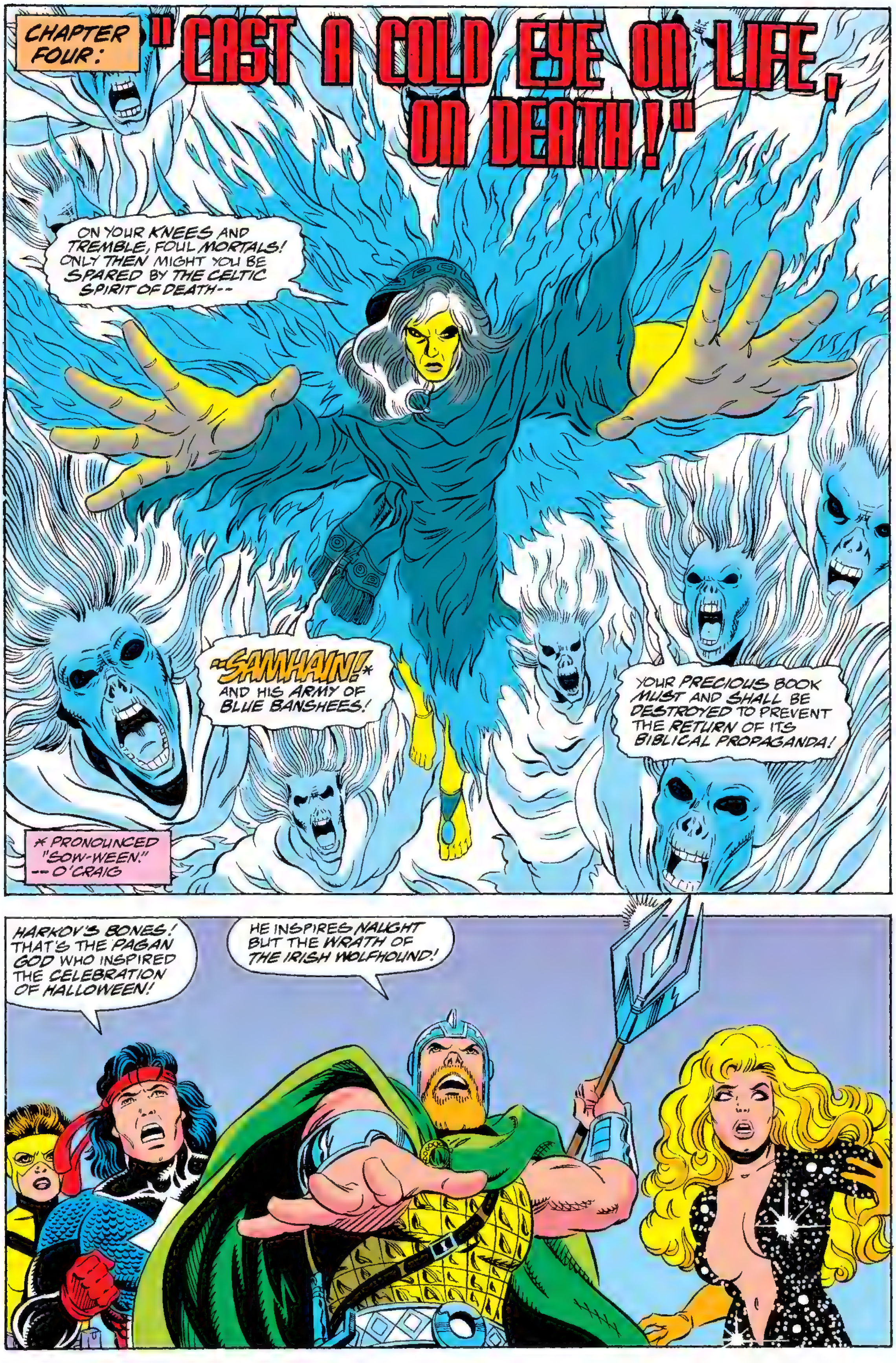

"UNFORTUNATELY, OUR BEST EFFORTS FAILED! THE COUNTRY... AND MY COMRADES FELL!"
MANY BODIES WERE NEVER RECOVERED... INCLUDING YOURS, MOLLY! WE ALL THOUGHT--
'TIS OBVIOUS I SURVIVED, SIMON! WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT AMERICA WAS LOST, I MADE MY WAY BACK HOME, CERTAIN THAT EUROPE WOULD BE THE NEXT MARTIAN TARGET.
AND, GOD HELP US, I WAS RIGHT!

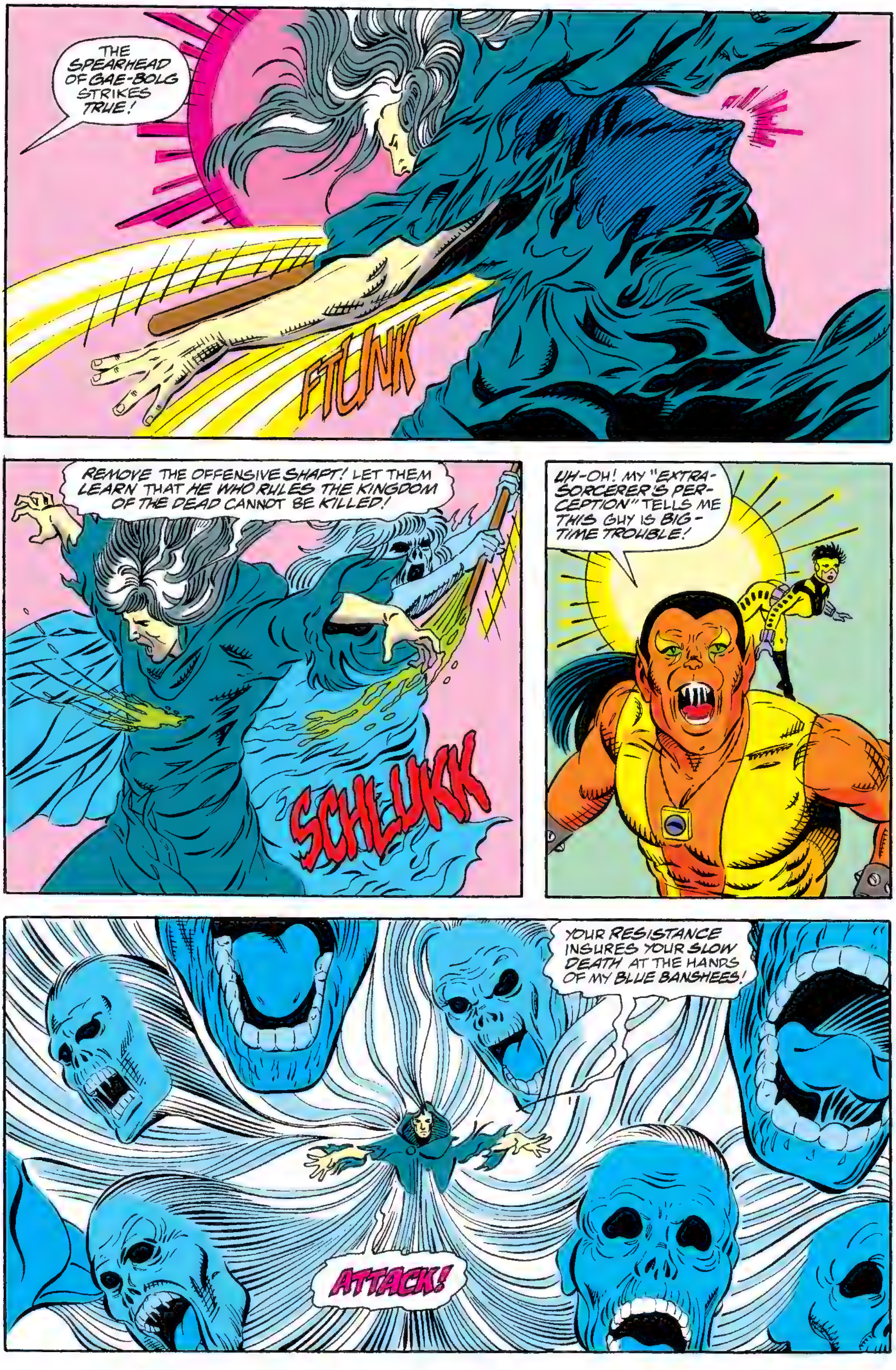

"THE TRIPODS BEGAN CUTTING A SWATH ACROSS THE EMERALD ISLE. I HAD DECIDED TO ENGAGE THEM NEAR CORK CITY WHEN I RECEIVED A POWERFUL MENTAL SUMMONS!
"IT GUIDED ME NORTH TO COUNTY ANTRIM-- HOME OF ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING GEOLOGICAL SITES ON EARTH, THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY!
"FORTY THOUSAND BASALT COLUMNS THAT JUT OUT INTO THE SEA WITH UNFATHOMABLE GEOMETRIC PRECISION!
"THERE I FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE PSYCHIC SUMMONS-- DOCTOR DRUID!
"MY TEMPER GOT THE BETTER OF ME!"
SURE AND YOU'RE A FINE ONE TO BE SITTIN' AROUND HERE WHILE YOUR FORMER TEAM-MATES GET SHAGGED BY THE MARTIANS!
SILENCE! IT IS ONLY THROUGH CONSIDERABLE EFFORT THAT I HAVE MANAGED TO REMAIN IN THIS MORTAL VEIL LONG PAST MY TIME--
--IN ORDER TO BESTOW THIS UPON YOU!
THE BOOK OF KELLS!

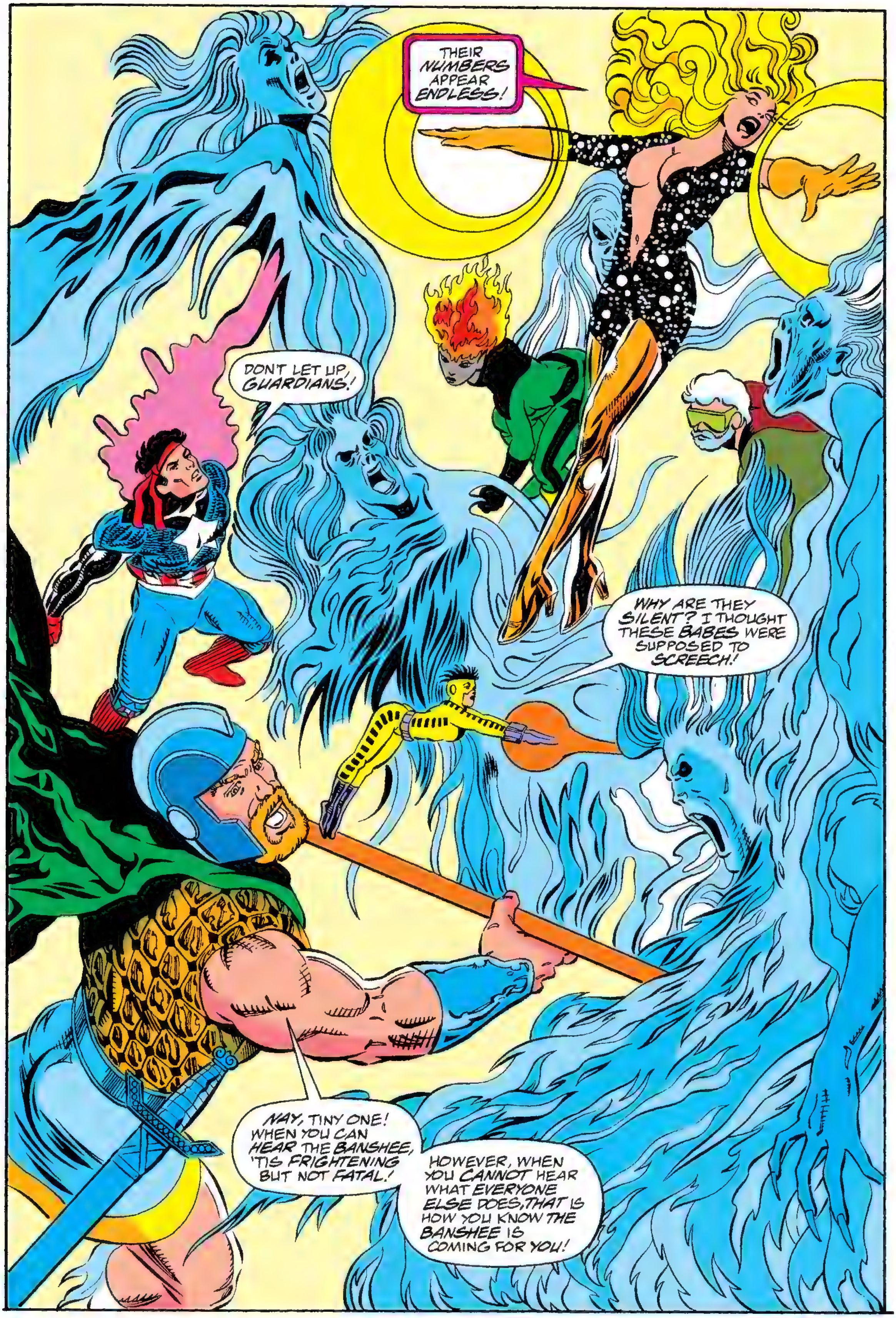

I HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE CELTIC WAR GODDESSES-- MORRIGAN, MACHA AND BADB! THEY ASSURE ME THE MARTIANS WILL PREVAIL!
EARTH WILL FALL! BUT EVENTUALLY, A NEW ORDER WILL ARISE AND THE SPIRIT OF MANKIND WILL BE RENEWED!
UNTIL THEN, THE RECORD OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED HERE MUST NOT BE DESTROYED! THAT IS WHY THE BOOK OF KELLS HAS BEEN UPDATED--
--IT NOW CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF THIS APOCALYPSE!
HOW COULD IT WHEN THE WAR IS STILL GOING ON?
TRUST ME MOLLY FITZGERALD... AS I NOW ENTRUST YOU!
YOU ARE HEREBY APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF THE BOOK OF KELLS-- FOR AS MANY CENTURIES AS DEEMED NECESSARY!
C-CENTURIES? BUT I--

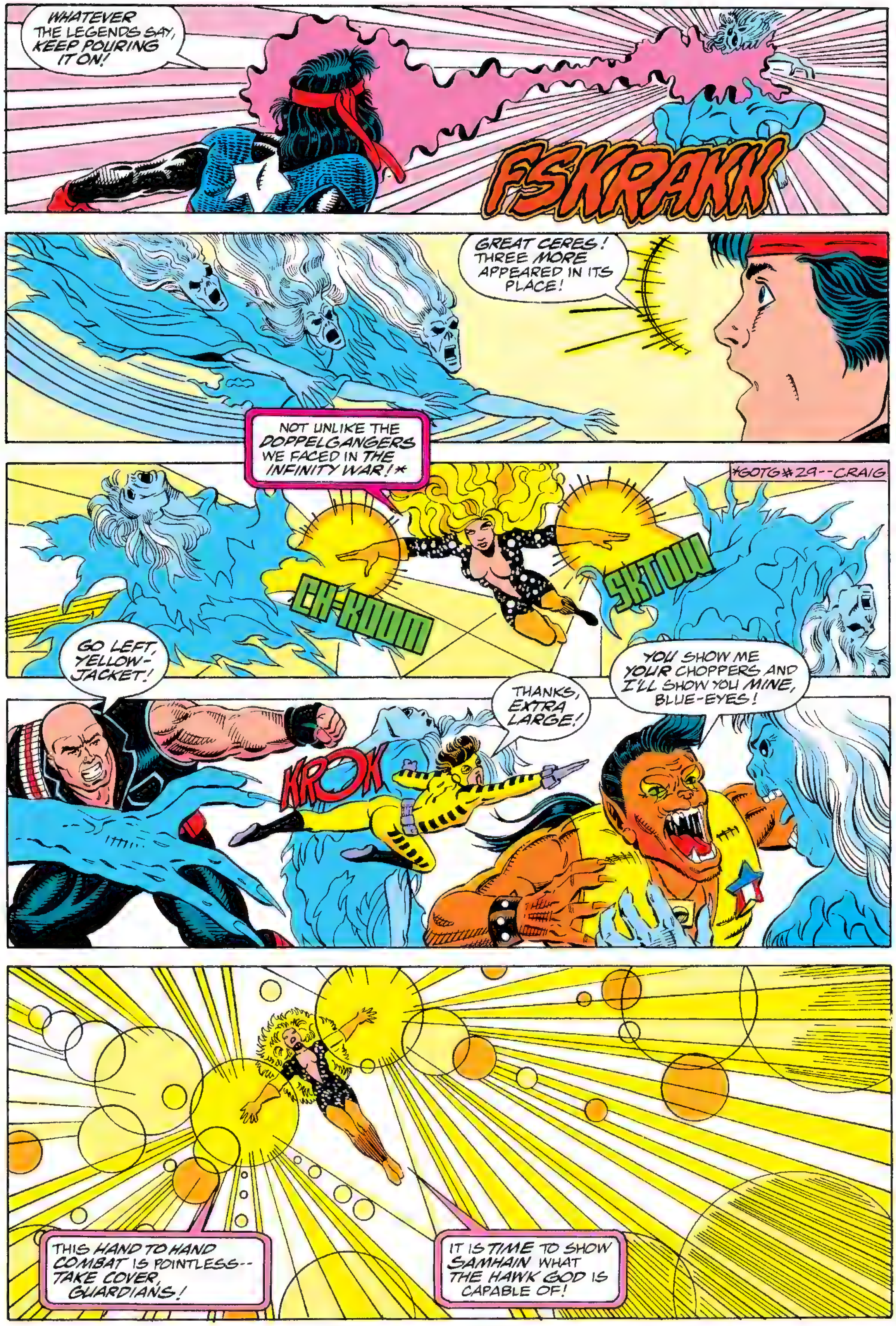

LISTEN TO ME, MOLLY. IN THE SAME WAY THAT YOUR INNER POLTERGEISTS PROVIDE YOUR "POWERS," THEY SHALL ALSO GRANT YOU ETERNAL LIFE!
IF THAT IS SO... THEN I ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY, DR. DRUID!
MY CHILD, I SENSE YOUR DESPAIR AS YOU CONTEMPLATE THE LONELINESS THIS BURDEN SHALL BRING!
THEREFORE, LET ME PROVIDE A COMPANION! I CALL FORTH FROM WITHIN YOU THE DORMANT SPIRIT OF IRELAND'S GREATEST WARRIOR, HIMSELF A VICTIM OF WAR...
"...CUCHULAIN-- THE IRISH WOLFHOUND!"
BY THE RED BRANCH! I LIVE AGAIN!

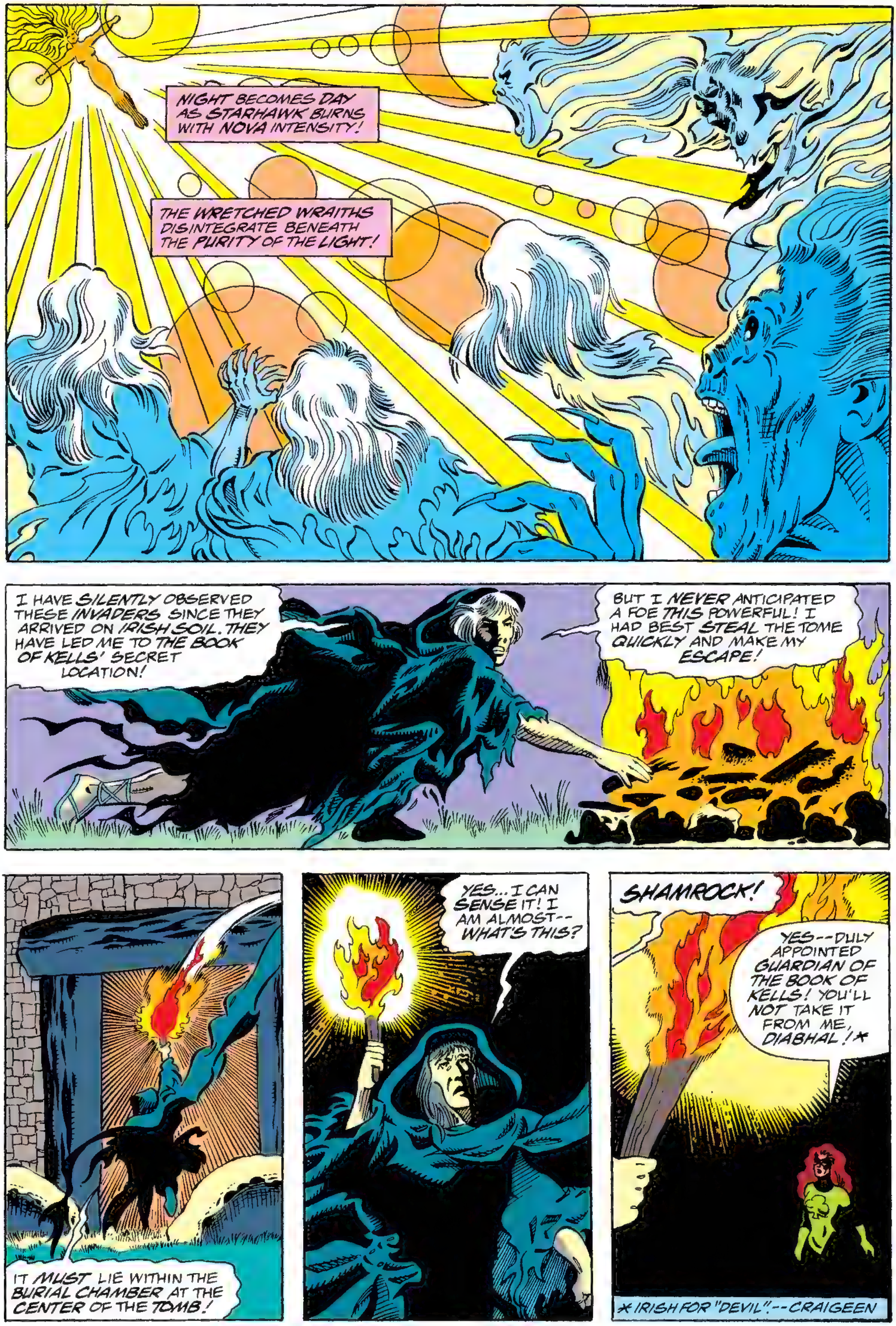

THE MANIFESTATION OF CUCHULAIN WAS DR. DRUID'S LAST ACT ON EARTH. HE PASSED INTO ANOTHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS.
THE IRISH WOLFHOUND AND I CAREFULLY MADE OUR WAY SOUTH TO THE SAFETY OF NEWGRANGE, WHERE WE'VE STOOD WATCH FOR TEN CENTURIES!
INCREDIBLE!
SHAMROCK, NOW IS THE TIME DR. DRUID SPOKE OF! MANKIND IS ON THE WAY BACK! WE ARE HERE TO ASK FOR THE BOOK OF KELLS TO AID IN THAT RESURGENCE!
ARE YOU DAFT, LITTLE MAN? WHY SHOULD WE RELINQUISH THE TOME TO YOU?
IT MATTERS NOT WHY! FOR NONE SHALL POSSESS THE BOOK OF KELLS SAVE ME!
BORU'S HARP!

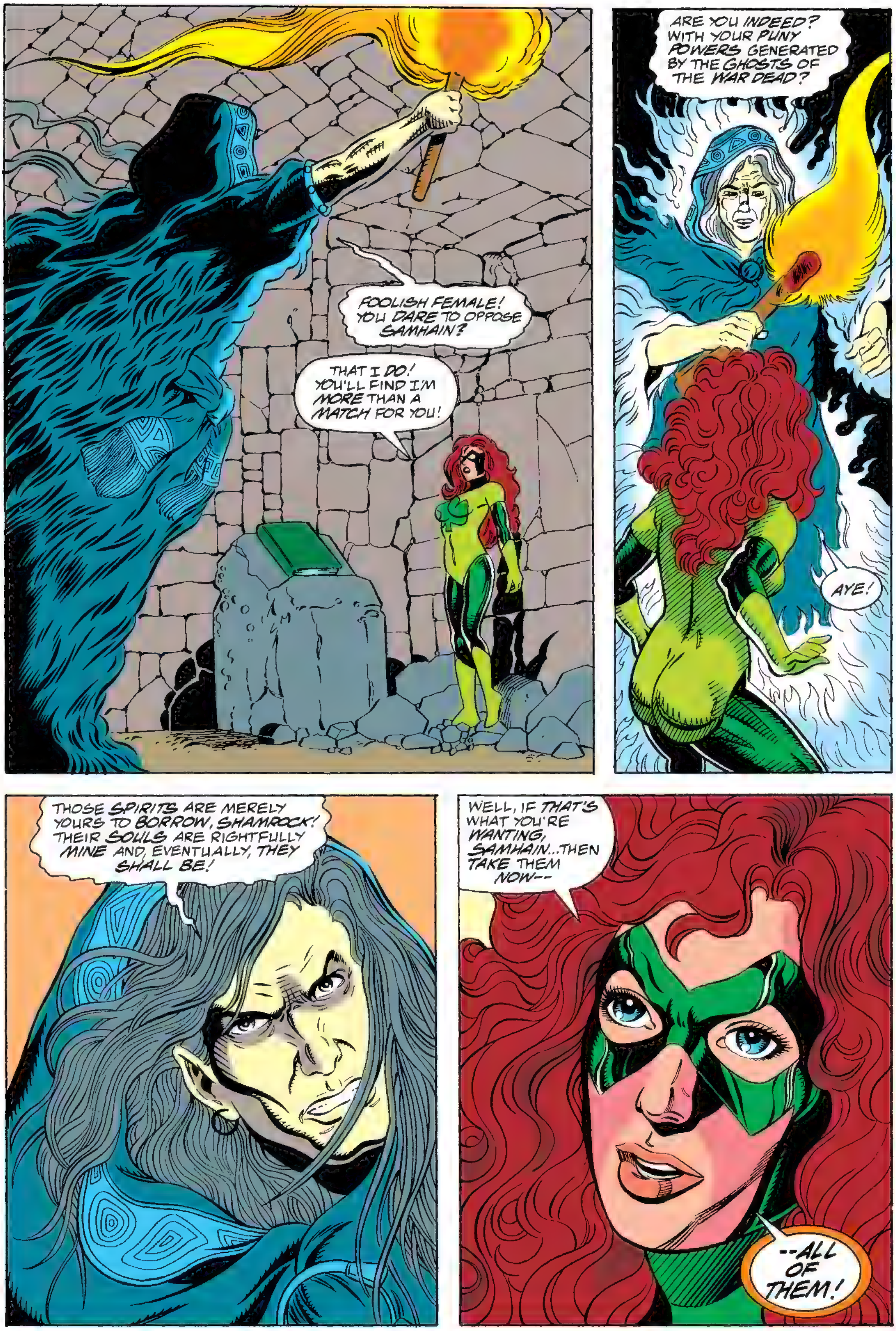

CHAPTER FOUR:
"CAST A COLD EYE ON LIFE, ON DEATH!"
ON YOUR KNEES AND TREMBLE, FOUL MORTALS! ONLY THEN MIGHT YOU BE SPARED BY THE CELTIC SPIRIT OF DEATH--
--SAMHAIN!* AND HIS ARMY OF BLUE BANSHEES!
YOUR PRECIOUS BOOK MUST AND SHALL BE DESTROYED TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF ITS BIBLICAL PROPAGANDA!
* PRONOUNCED "SOW-WEEN." --O'CRAIG
HARKOV'S BONES! THAT'S THE PAGAN GOD WHO INSPIRED THE CELEBRATION OF HALLOWEEN!
HE INSPIRES NAUGHT BUT THE WRATH OF THE IRISH WOLFHOUND!

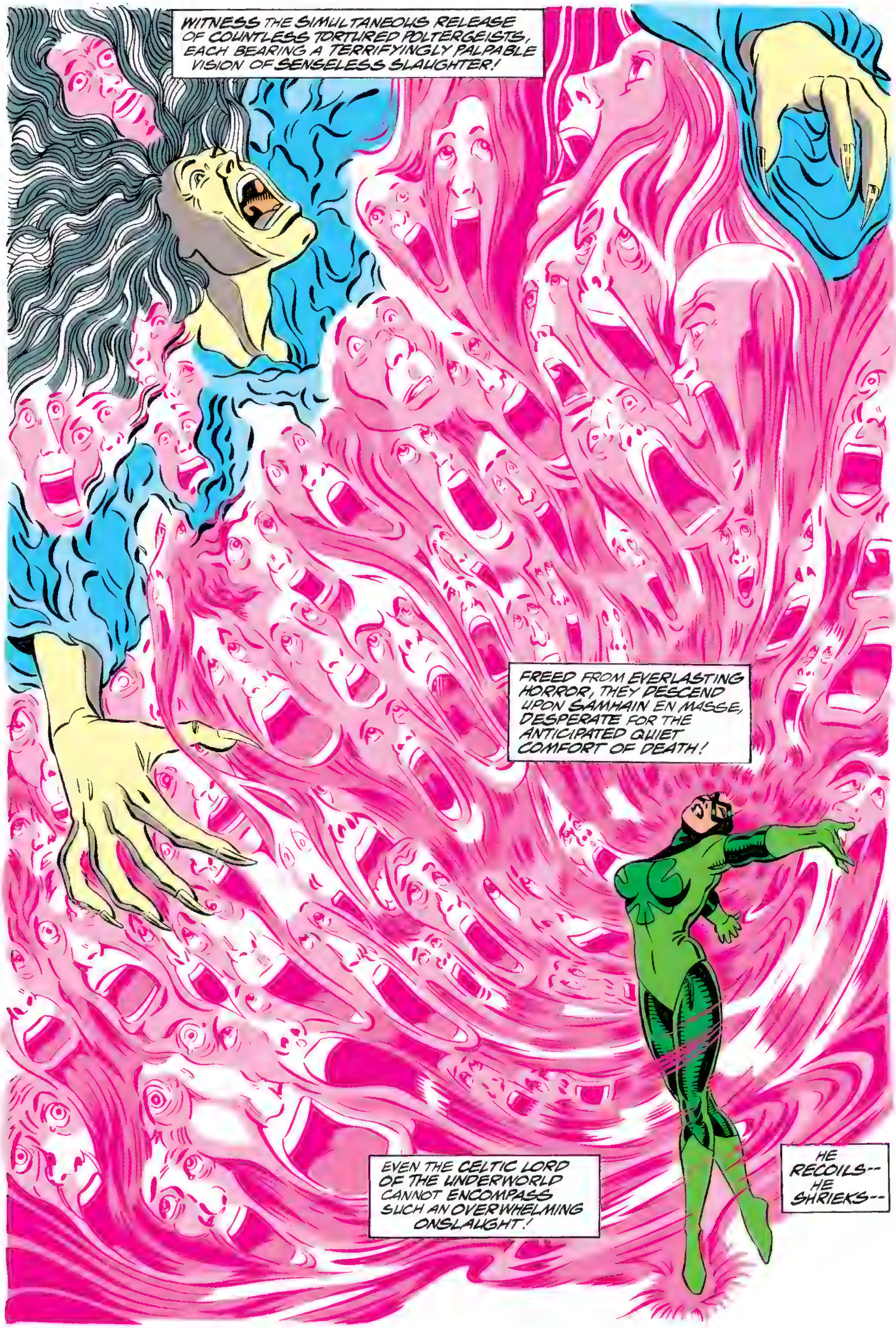

THE SPEARHEAD OF GAE-BOLG STRIKES TRUE!
FTUNK
REMOVE THE OFFENSIVE SHAFT! LET THEM LEARN THAT HE WHO RULES THE KINGDOM OF THE DEAD CANNOT BE KILLED!
SCHLUKK
UH-OH! MY "EXTRA-SORCERER'S PERCEPTION" TELLS ME THIS GUY IS BIG-TIME TROUBLE!
YOUR RESISTANCE INSURES YOUR SLOW DEATH AT THE HANDS OF MY BLUE BANSHEES!
ATTACK!

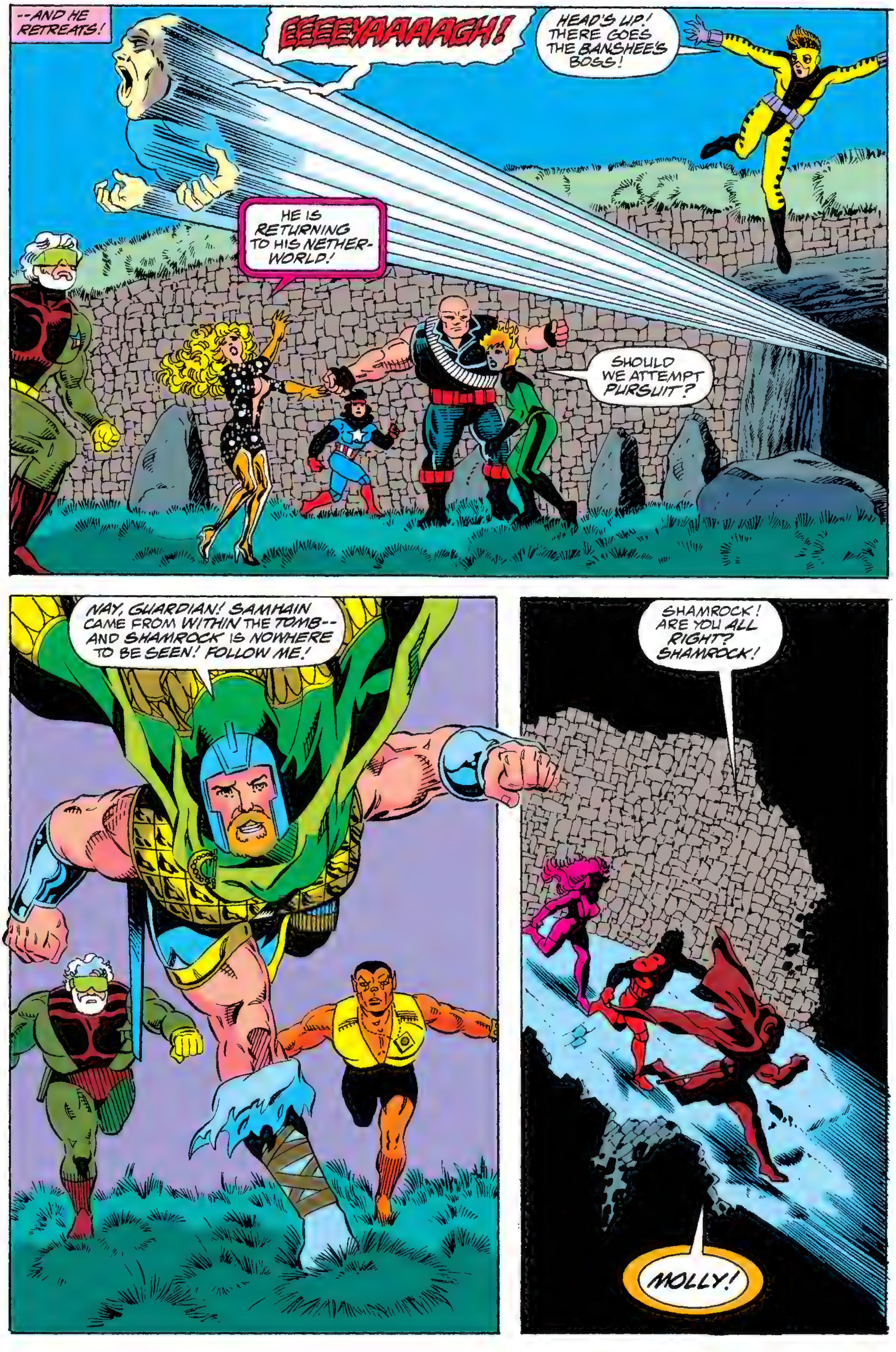

THEIR NUMBERS APPEAR ENDLESS!
DON'T LET UP, GUARDIANS!
WHY ARE THEY SILENT? I THOUGHT THESE BABES WERE SUPPOSED TO SCREECH!
NAY, TINY ONE! WHEN YOU CAN HEAR THE BANSHEE, 'TIS FRIGHTENING BUT NOT FATAL!
HOWEVER, WHEN YOU CANNOT HEAR WHAT EVERYONE ELSE DOES, THAT IS HOW YOU KNOW THE BANSHEE IS COMING FOR YOU!

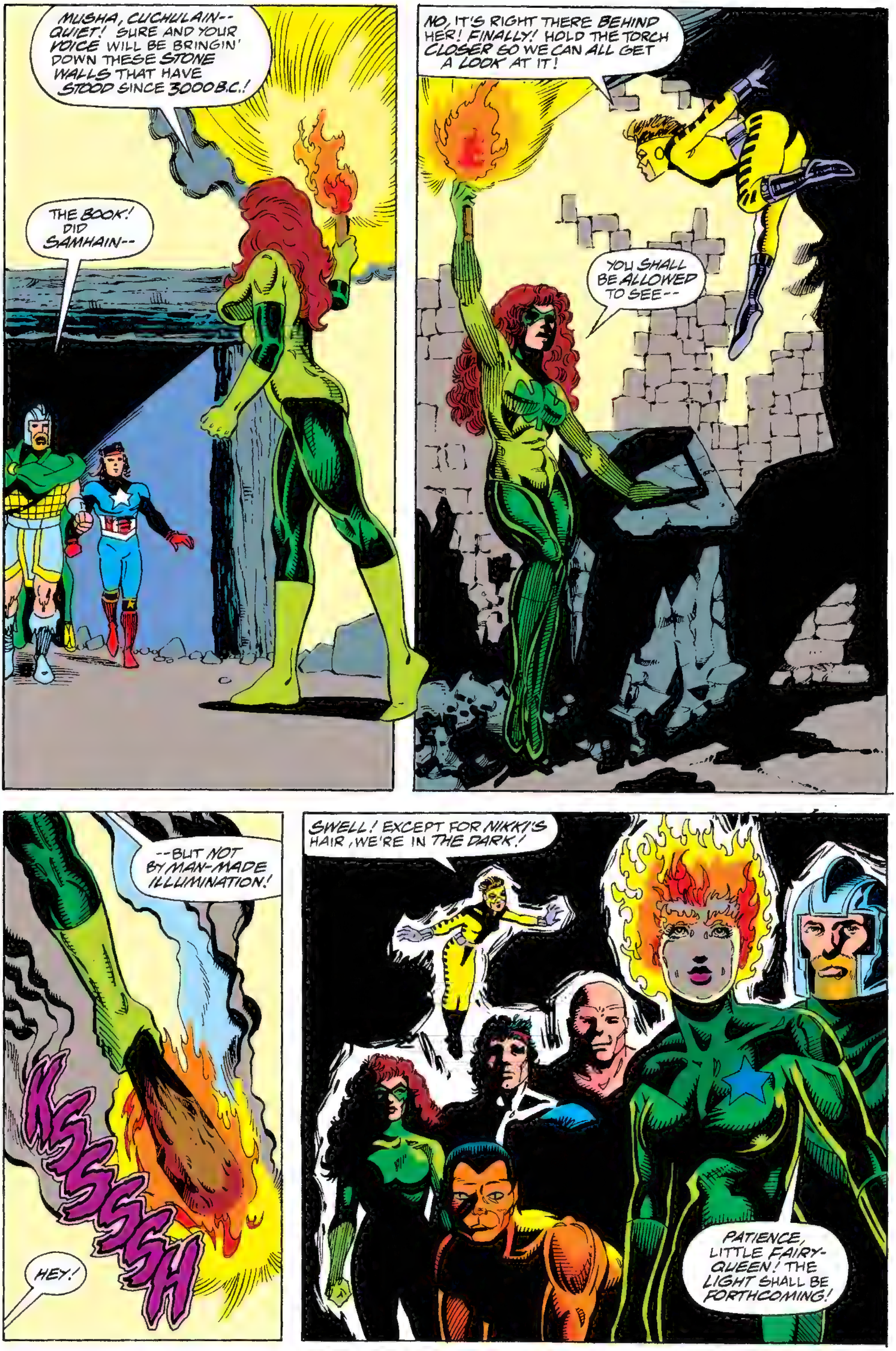

WHATEVER THE LEGENDS SAY, KEEP POURING IT ON!
FSKRAKK
GREAT CERES! THREE MORE APPEARED IN ITS PLACE!
NOT UNLIKE THE DOPPELGANGERS WE FACED IN THE INFINITY WAR!*
*GOTG #29--CRAIG
CH-KOOM
SKTOW
GO LEFT, YELLOW-JACKET!
THANKS, EXTRA LARGE!
YOU SHOW ME YOUR CHOPPERS AND I'LL SHOW YOU MINE, BLUE-EYES!
KROK
THIS HAND TO HAND COMBAT IS POINTLESS-- TAKE COVER, GUARDIANS!
IT IS TIME TO SHOW SAMHAIN WHAT THE HAWK GOD IS CAPABLE OF!

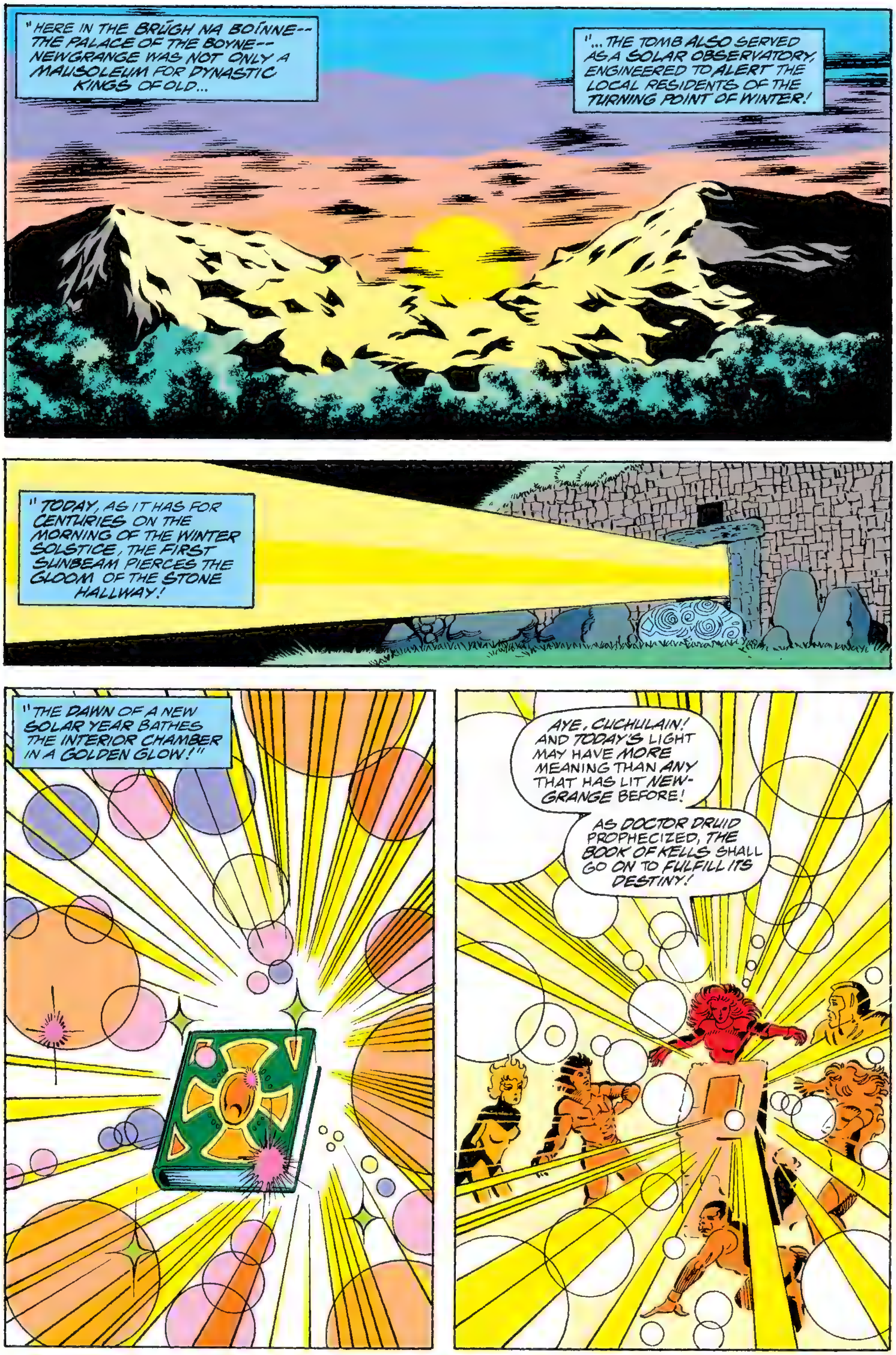

NIGHT BECOMES DAY AS STARHAWK BURNS WITH NOVA INTENSITY!
THE WRETCHED WRAITHS DISINTEGRATE BENEATH THE PURITY OF THE LIGHT!
I HAVE SILENTLY OBSERVED THESE INVADERS SINCE THEY ARRIVED ON IRISH SOIL. THEY HAVE LED ME TO THE BOOK OF KELLS' SECRET LOCATION!
BUT I NEVER ANTICIPATED A FOE THIS POWERFUL! I HAD BEST STEAL THE TOME QUICKLY AND MAKE MY ESCAPE!
IT MUST LIE WITHIN THE BURIAL CHAMBER AT THE CENTER OF THE TOMB!
YES... I CAN SENSE IT! I AM ALMOST-- WHAT'S THIS?
SHAMROCK!
YES--DULY APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF THE BOOK OF KELLS! YOU'LL NOT TAKE IT FROM ME, DIABHAL!*
*IRISH FOR "DEVIL".--CRAIGEEN

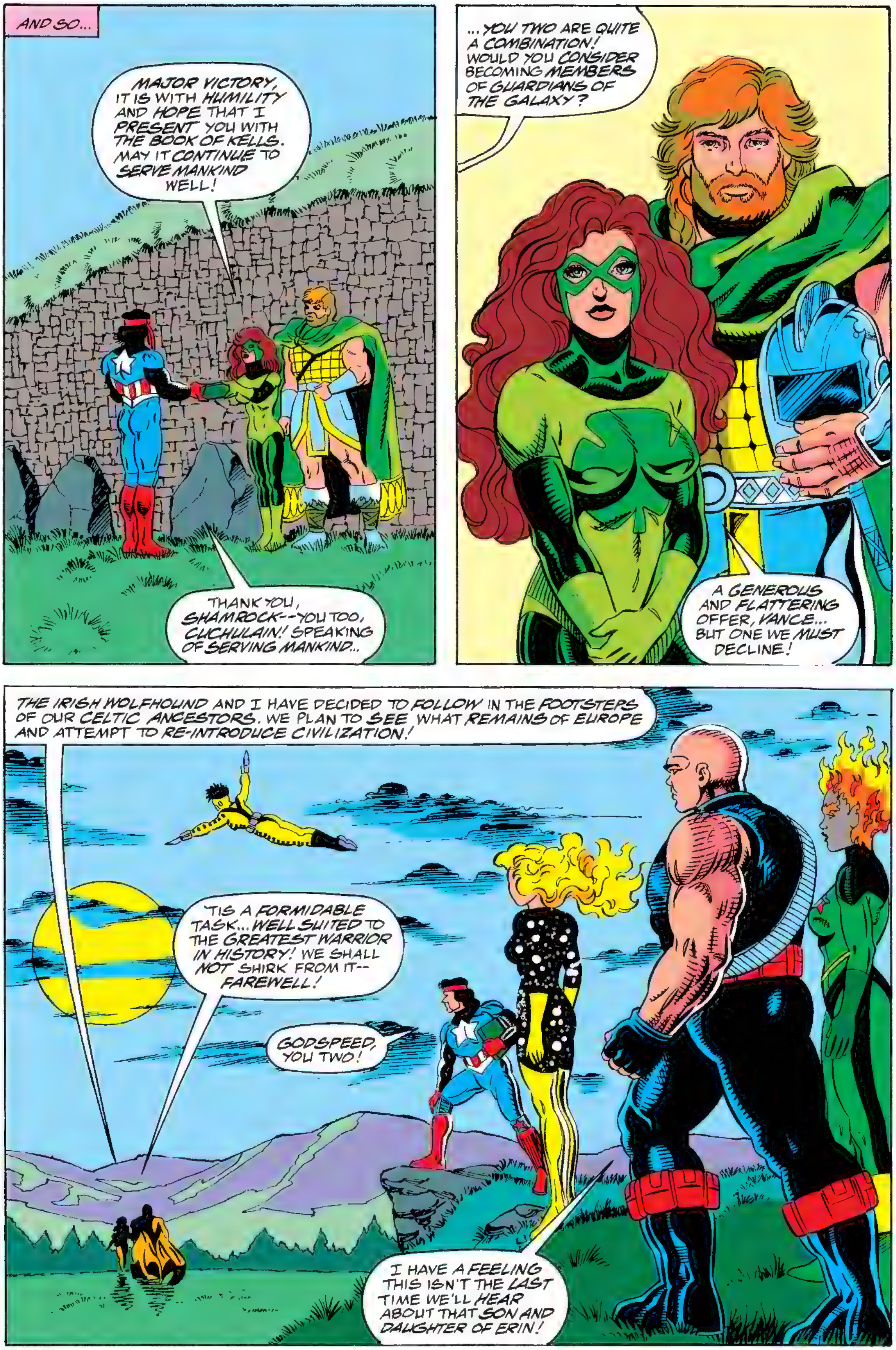

FOOLISH FEMALE! YOU DARE TO OPPOSE SAMHAIN?
THAT I DO! YOU'LL FIND I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOU!
ARE YOU INDEED? WITH YOUR PUNY POWERS GENERATED BY THE GHOSTS OF THE WAR DEAD?
AYE!
THOSE SPIRITS ARE MERELY YOURS TO BORROW, SHAMROCK! THEIR SOULS ARE RIGHTFULLY MINE AND, EVENTUALLY, THEY SHALL BE!
WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WANTING, SAMHAIN...THEN TAKE THEM NOW--
--ALL OF THEM!

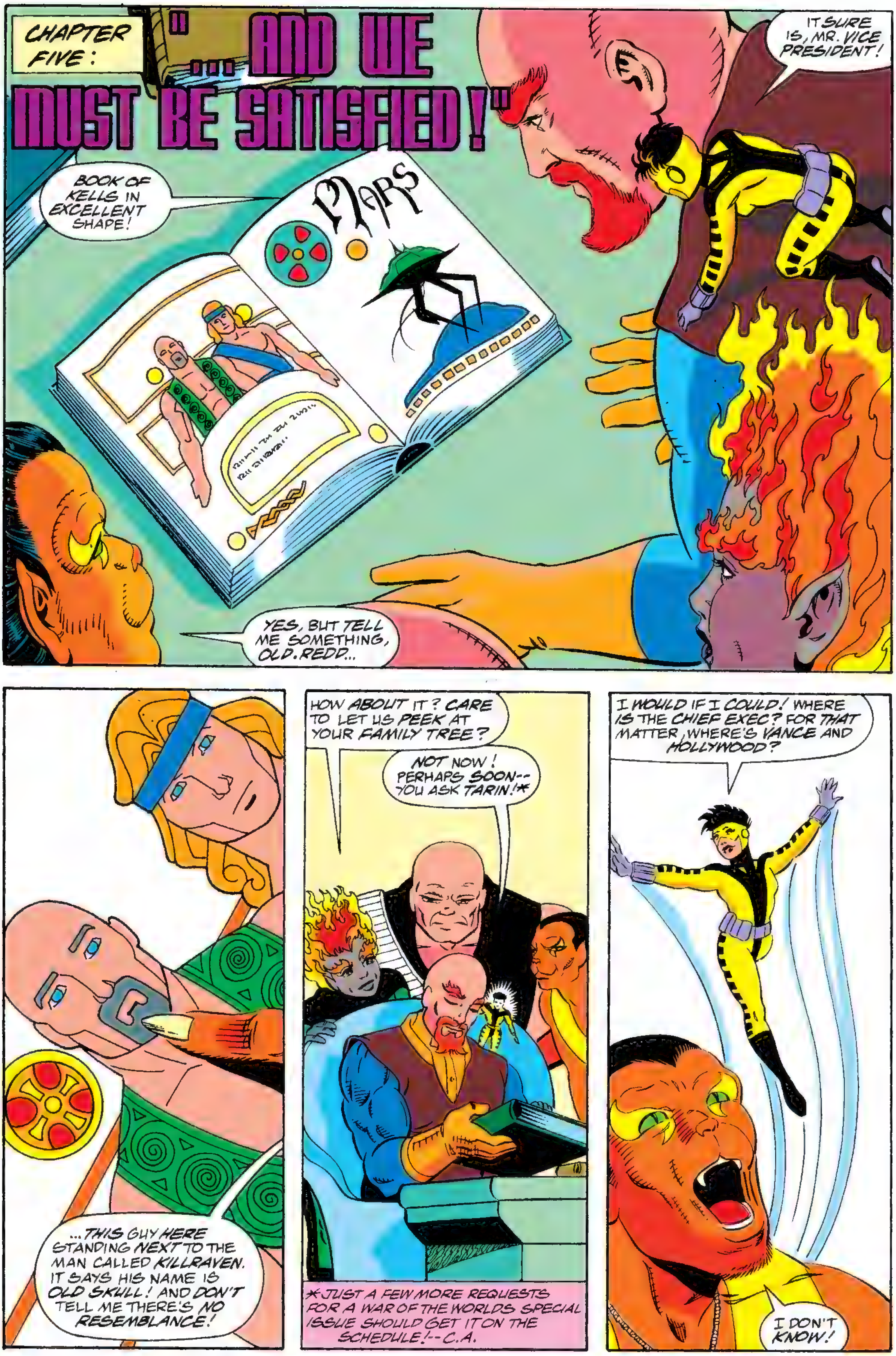

WITNESS THE SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF COUNTLESS TORTURED POLTERGEISTS, EACH BEARING A TERRIFYINGLY PALPABLE VISION OF SENSELESS SLAUGHTER!
FREED FROM EVERLASTING HORROR, THEY DESCEND UPON SAMHAIN EN MASSE, DESPERATE FOR THE ANTICIPATED QUIET COMFORT OF DEATH!
EVEN THE CELTIC LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD CANNOT ENCOMPASS SUCH AN OVERWHELMING ONSLAUGHT!
HE RECOILS-- HE SHRIEKS--

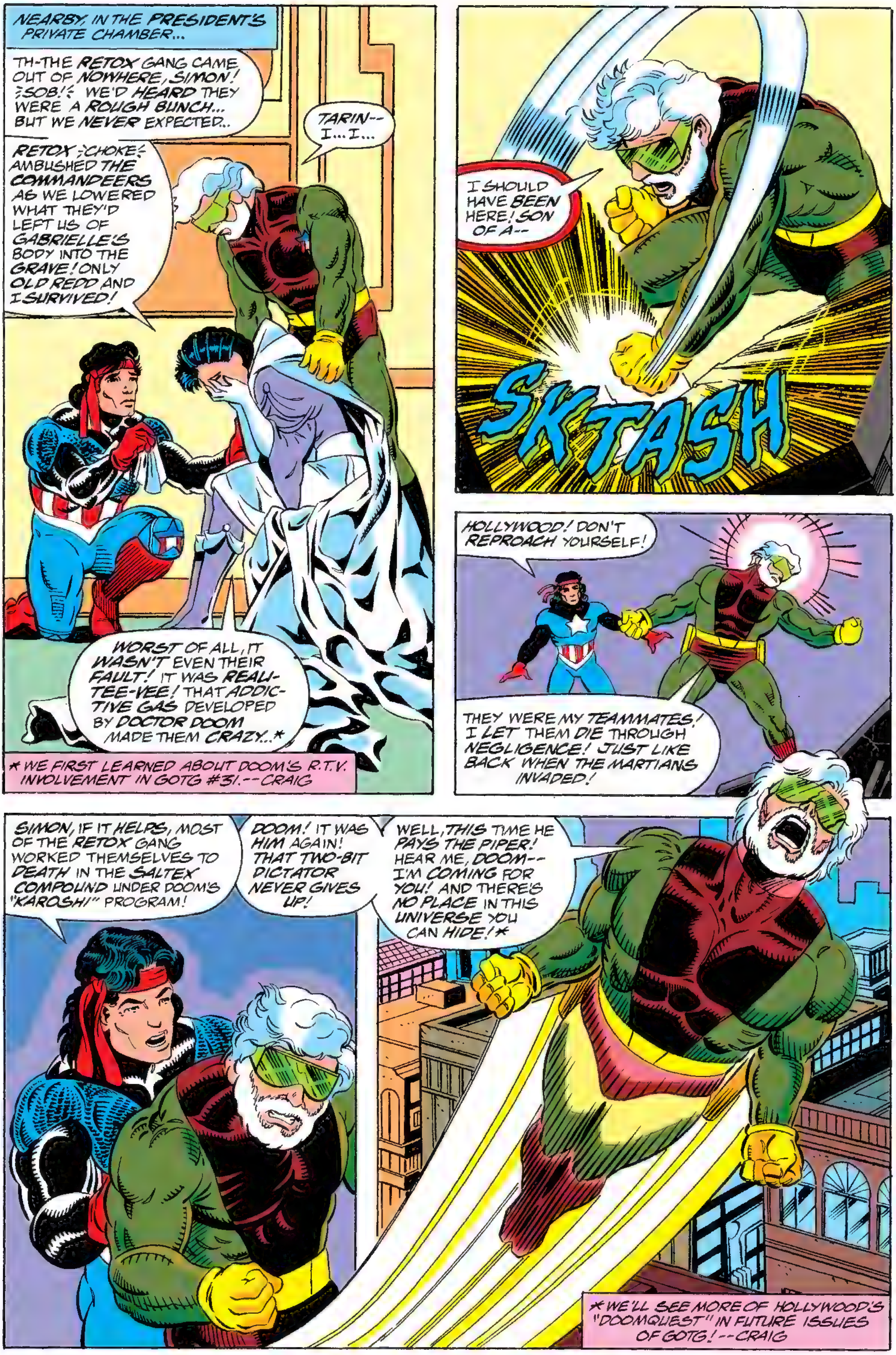

--AND HE RETREATS!
EEEEYAAAAAGH!
HEAD'S UP! THERE GOES THE BANSHEE'S BOSS!
HE IS RETURNING TO HIS NETHER-WORLD!
SHOULD WE ATTEMPT PURSUIT?
NAY, GUARDIAN! SAMHAIN CAME FROM WITHIN THE TOMB-- AND SHAMROCK IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN! FOLLOW ME!
SHAMROCK! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SHAMROCK!
MOLLY!

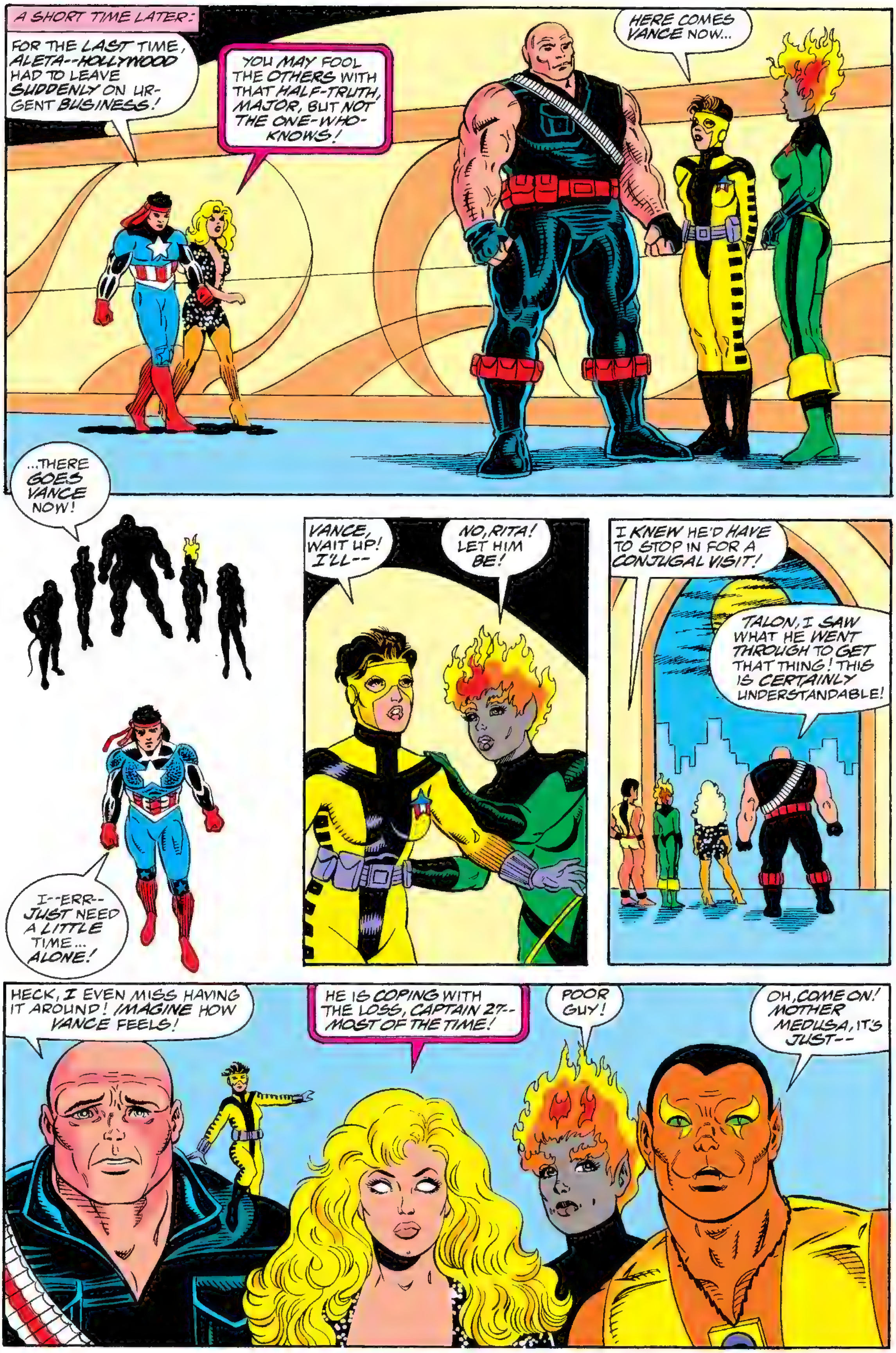

MUSHA, CUCHULAIN--QUIET! SURE AND YOUR VOICE WILL BE BRINGIN' DOWN THESE STONE WALLS THAT HAVE STOOD SINCE 3000 B.C.!
THE BOOK! DID SAMHAIN--
NO, IT'S RIGHT THERE BEHIND HER! FINALLY! HOLD THE TORCH CLOSER SO WE CAN ALL GET A LOOK AT IT!
YOU SHALL BE ALLOWED TO SEE--
--BUT NOT BY MAN-MADE ILLUMINATION!
KSSSSH
HEY!
SWELL! EXCEPT FOR NIKKI'S HAIR, WE'RE IN THE DARK!
PATIENCE, LITTLE FAIRY-QUEEN! THE LIGHT SHALL BE FORTHCOMING!

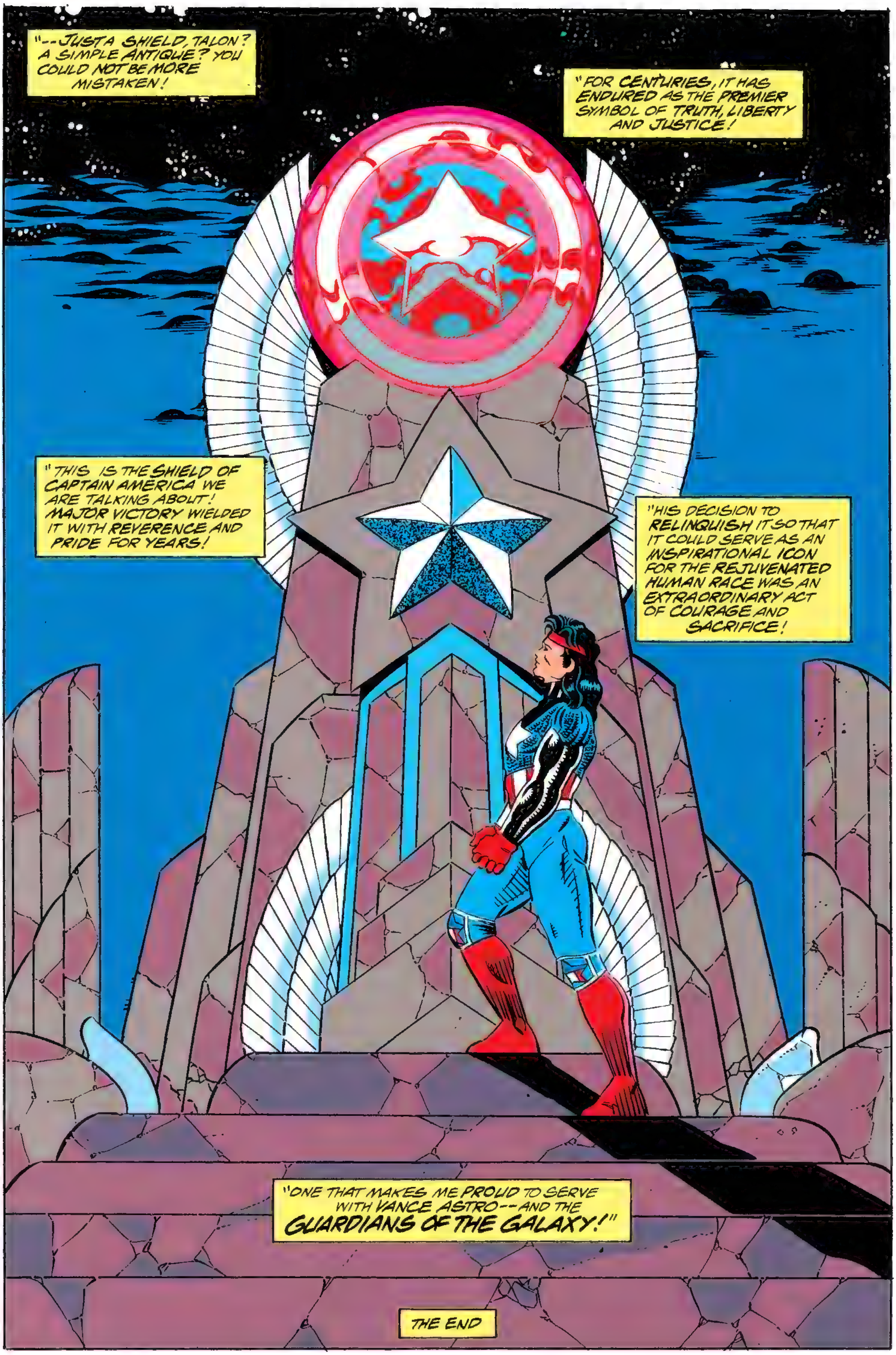

"HERE IN THE BRÚGH NA BOÍNNE-- THE PALACE OF THE BOYNE-- NEWGRANGE WAS NOT ONLY A MAUSOLEUM FOR DYNASTIC KINGS OF OLD...
"...THE TOMB ALSO SERVED AS A SOLAR OBSERVATORY, ENGINEERED TO ALERT THE LOCAL RESIDENTS OF THE TURNING POINT OF WINTER!
"TODAY, AS IT HAS FOR CENTURIES ON THE MORNING OF THE WINTER SOLSTICE, THE FIRST SUNBEAM PIERCES THE GLOOM OF THE STONE HALLWAY!
"THE DAWN OF A NEW SOLAR YEAR BATHES THE INTERIOR CHAMBER IN A GOLDEN GLOW!"
AYE, CUCHULAIN! AND TODAY'S LIGHT MAY HAVE MORE MEANING THAN ANY THAT HAS LIT NEWGRANGE BEFORE!
AS DOCTOR DRUID PROPHECIZED, THE BOOK OF KELLS SHALL GO ON TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY!

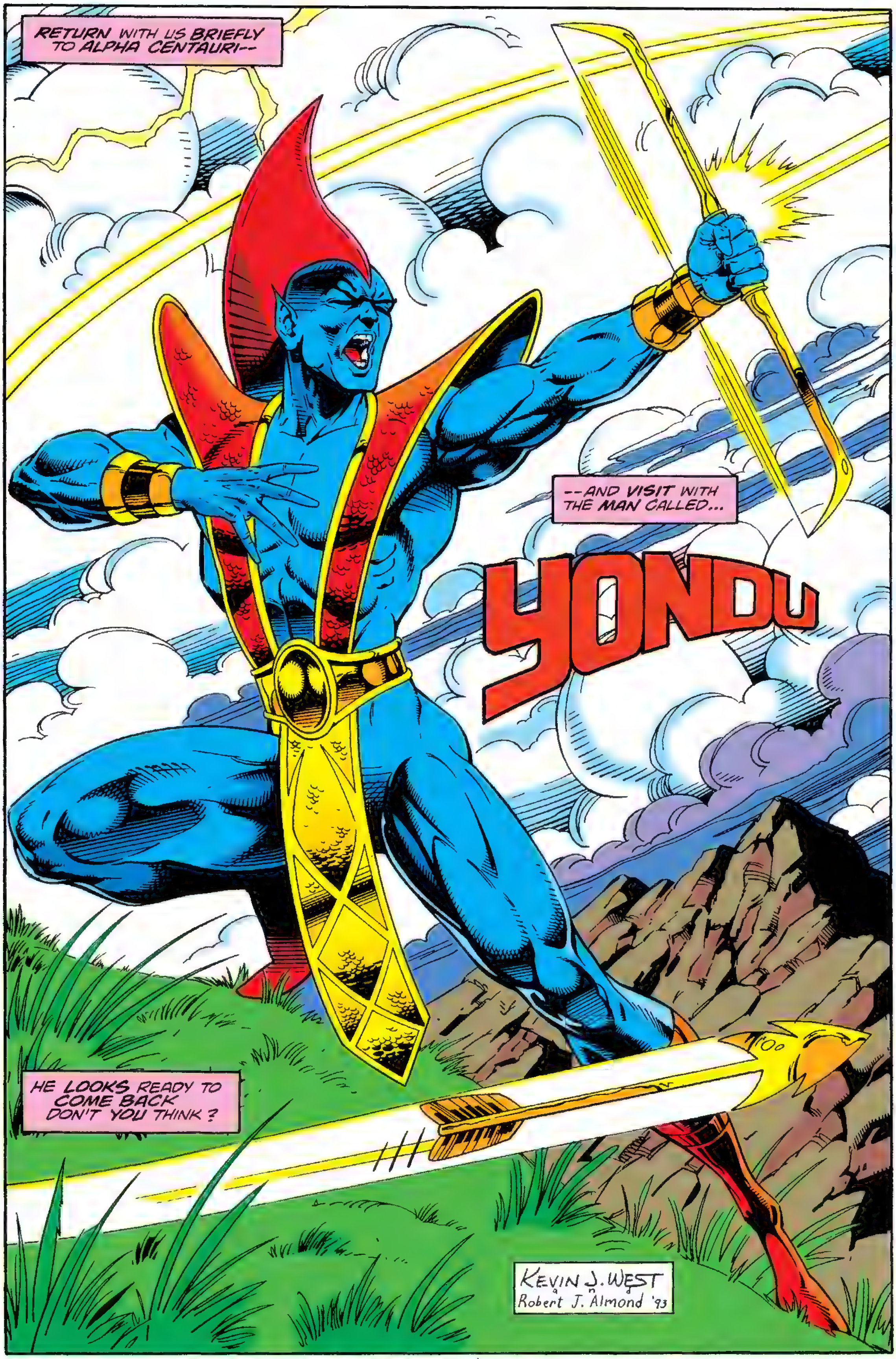

AND SO...
MAJOR VICTORY, IT IS WITH HUMILITY AND HOPE THAT I PRESENT YOU WITH THE BOOK OF KELLS. MAY IT CONTINUE TO SERVE MANKIND WELL!
THANK YOU, SHAMROCK--YOU TOO, CUCHULAIN! SPEAKING OF SERVING MANKIND...
...YOU TWO ARE QUITE A COMBINATION! WOULD YOU CONSIDER BECOMING MEMBERS OF GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY?
A GENEROUS AND FLATTERING OFFER, VANCE... BUT ONE WE MUST DECLINE!
THE IRISH WOLFHOUND AND I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR CELTIC ANCESTORS. WE PLAN TO SEE WHAT REMAINS OF EUROPE AND ATTEMPT TO RE-INTRODUCE CIVILIZATION!
'TIS A FORMIDABLE TASK... WELL SUITED TO THE GREATEST WARRIOR IN HISTORY! WE SHALL NOT SHIRK FROM IT-- FAREWELL!
GODSPEED, YOU TWO!
I HAVE A FEELING THIS ISN'T THE LAST TIME WE'LL HEAR ABOUT THAT SON AND DAUGHTER OF ERIN!

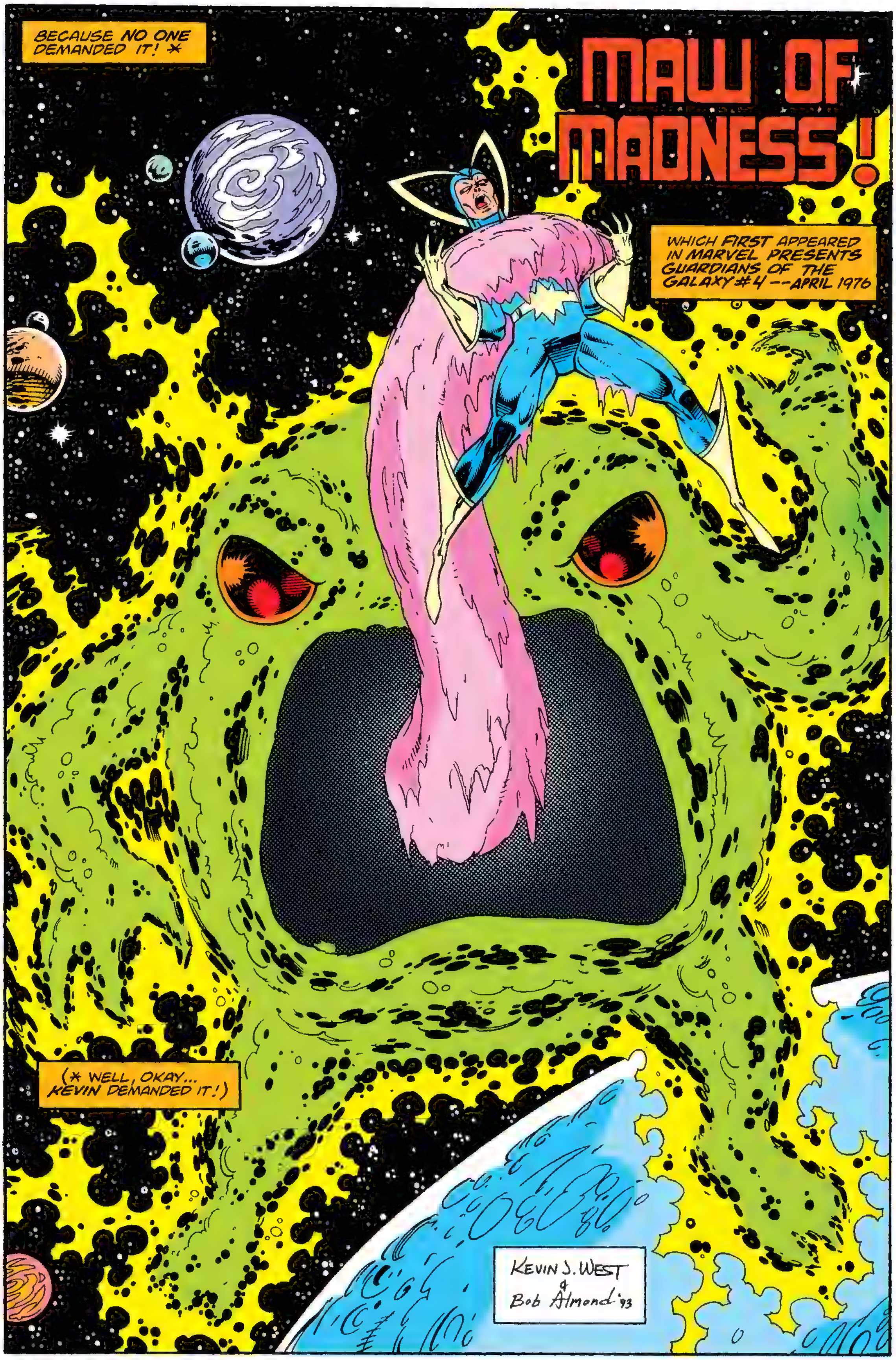

CHAPTER FIVE: "...AND WE MUST BE SATISFIED!"
BOOK OF KELLS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE!
MARS
IT SURE IS, MR. VICE PRESIDENT!
YES, BUT TELL ME SOMETHING, OLD REDD...
...THIS GUY HERE STANDING NEXT TO THE MAN CALLED KILLRAVEN. IT SAYS HIS NAME IS OLD SKULL! AND DON'T TELL ME THERE'S NO RESEMBLANCE!
HOW ABOUT IT? CARE TO LET US PEEK AT YOUR FAMILY TREE?
NOT NOW! PERHAPS SOON-- YOU ASK TARIN!*
*JUST A FEW MORE REQUESTS FOR A WAR OF THE WORLDS SPECIAL ISSUE SHOULD GET IT ON THE SCHEDULE!--C.A.
I WOULD IF I COULD! WHERE IS THE CHIEF EXEC? FOR THAT MATTER, WHERE'S VANCE AND HOLLYWOOD?
I DON'T KNOW!

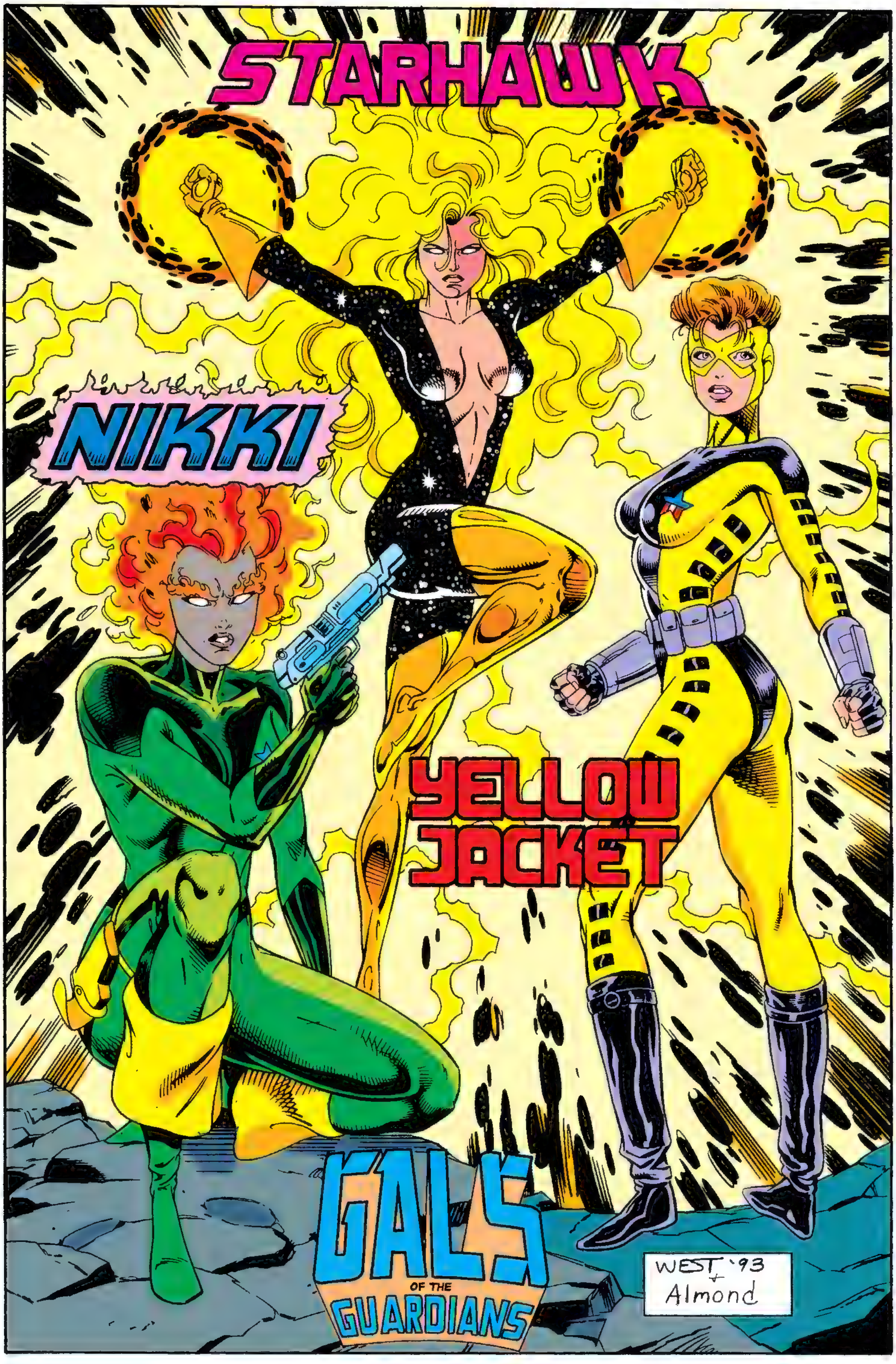

NEARBY, IN THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE CHAMBER...
TH-THE RETOX GANG CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, SIMON! ;SOB!; WE'D HEARD THEY WERE A ROUGH BUNCH... BUT WE NEVER EXPECTED..
TARIN-- I...I...
RETOX ;CHOKE; AMBUSHED THE COMMANDEERS AS WE LOWERED WHAT THEY'D LEFT US OF GABRIELLE'S BODY INTO THE GRAVE! ONLY OLD REDD AND I SURVIVED!
WORST OF ALL, IT WASN'T EVEN THEIR FAULT! IT WAS REALI-TEE-VEE! THAT ADDICTIVE GAS DEVELOPED BY DOCTOR DOOM MADE THEM CRAZY..*
* WE FIRST LEARNED ABOUT DOOM'S R.T.V. INVOLVEMENT IN GOTG #31.--CRAIG
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE! SON OF A--
SKTASH
HOLLYWOOD! DON'T REPROACH YOURSELF!
THEY WERE MY TEAMMATES! I LET THEM DIE THROUGH NEGLIGENCE! JUST LIKE BACK WHEN THE MARTIANS INVADED!
SIMON, IF IT HELPS, MOST OF THE RETOX GANG WORKED THEMSELVES TO DEATH IN THE SALTEX COMPOUND UNDER DOOM'S "KAROSHI" PROGRAM!
DOOM! IT WAS HIM AGAIN! THAT TWO-BIT DICTATOR NEVER GIVES UP!
WELL, THIS TIME HE PAYS THE PIPER! HEAR ME, DOOM-- I'M COMING FOR YOU! AND THERE'S NO PLACE IN THIS UNIVERSE YOU CAN HIDE!*
* WE'LL SEE MORE OF HOLLYWOOD'S "DOOMQUEST" IN FUTURE ISSUES OF GOTG! --CRAIG

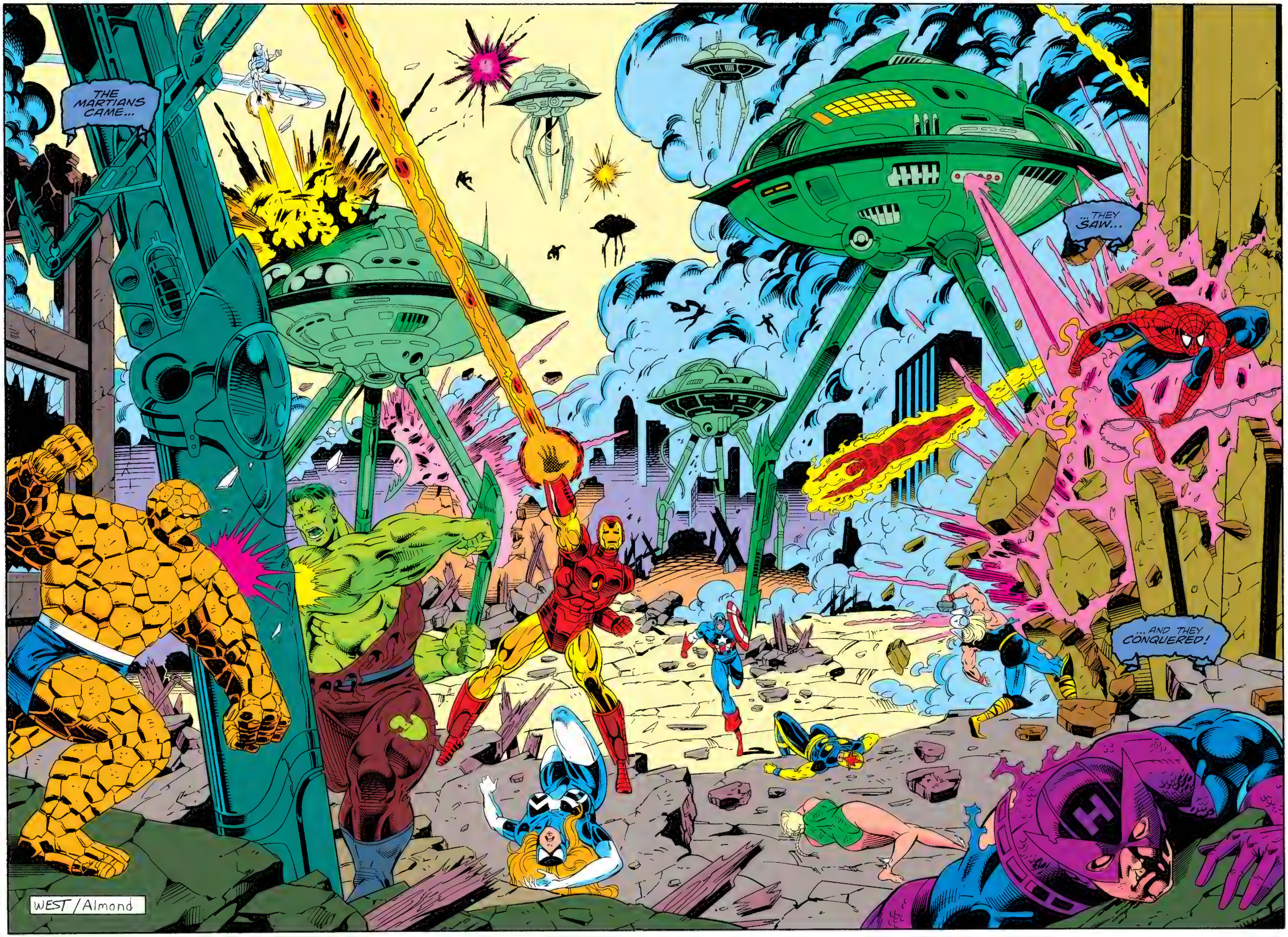

A SHORT TIME LATER:
FOR THE LAST TIME, ALETA--HOLLYWOOD HAD TO LEAVE SUDDENLY ON URGENT BUSINESS!
YOU MAY FOOL THE OTHERS WITH THAT HALF-TRUTH, MAJOR, BUT NOT THE ONE-WHO-KNOWS!
HERE COMES VANCE NOW...
...THERE GOES VANCE NOW!
I--ERR--JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME... ALONE!
VANCE, WAIT UP! I'LL--
NO, RITA! LET HIM BE!
I KNEW HE'D HAVE TO STOP IN FOR A CONJUGAL VISIT!
TALON, I SAW WHAT HE WENT THROUGH TO GET THAT THING! THIS IS CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDABLE!
HECK, I EVEN MISS HAVING IT AROUND! IMAGINE HOW VANCE FEELS!
HE IS COPING WITH THE LOSS, CAPTAIN 27--MOST OF THE TIME!
POOR GUY!
OH, COME ON! MOTHER MEDUSA, IT'S JUST--

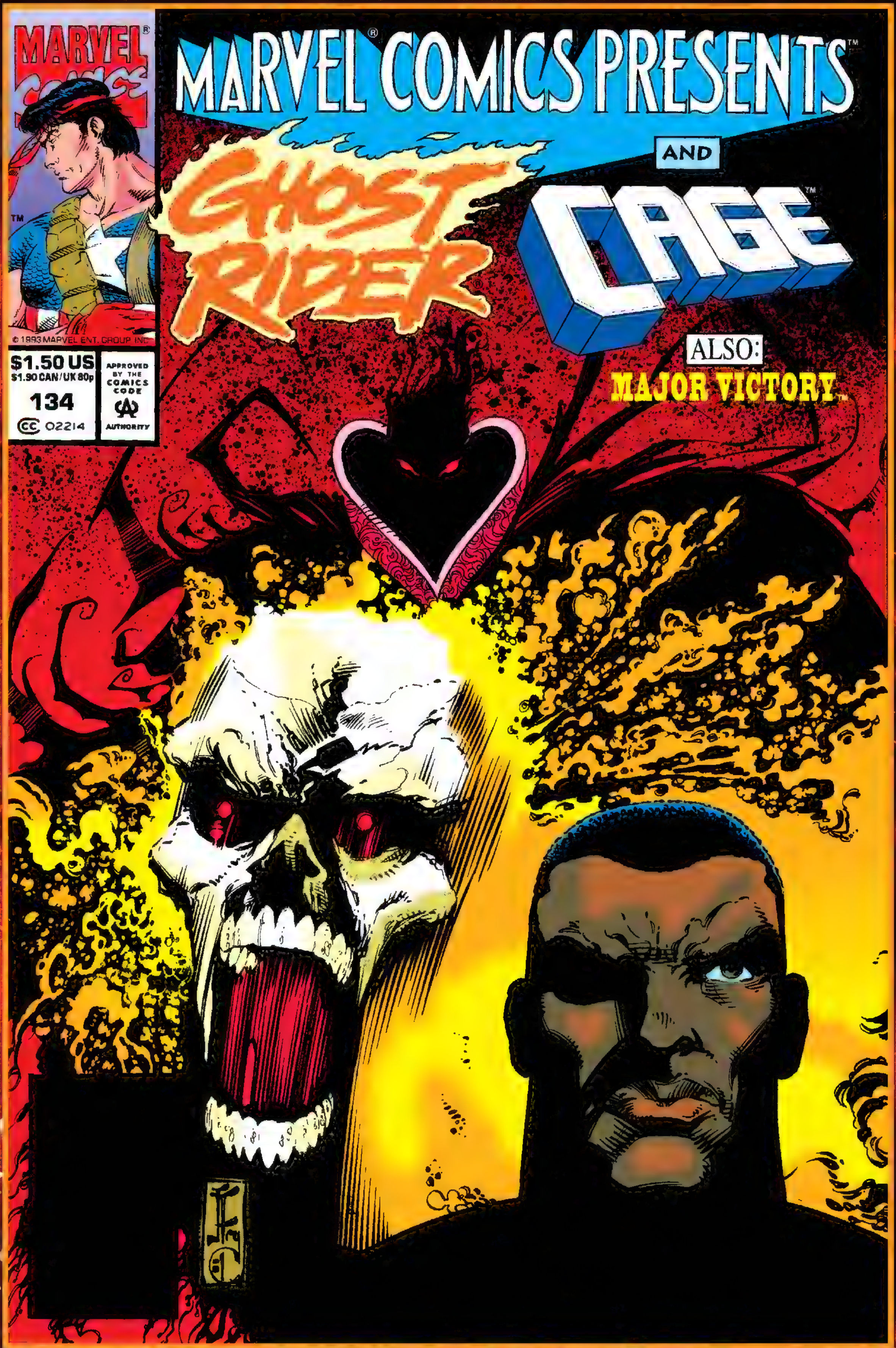

"--JUST A SHIELD, TALON? A SIMPLE ANTIQUE? YOU COULD NOT BE MORE MISTAKEN!
"FOR CENTURIES, IT HAS ENDURED AS THE PREMIER SYMBOL OF TRUTH, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE!
"THIS IS THE SHIELD OF CAPTAIN AMERICA WE ARE TALKING ABOUT! MAJOR VICTORY WIELDED IT WITH REVERENCE AND PRIDE FOR YEARS!
"HIS DECISION TO RELINQUISH IT SO THAT IT COULD SERVE AS AN INSPIRATIONAL ICON FOR THE REJUVENATED HUMAN RACE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY ACT OF COURAGE AND SACRIFICE!
"ONE THAT MAKES ME PROUD TO SERVE WITH VANCE ASTRO--AND THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY!"
THE END


RETURN WITH US BRIEFLY TO ALPHA CENTAURI--
--AND VISIT WITH THE MAN CALLED...
YONDU
HE LOOKS READY TO COME BACK DON'T YOU THINK?
KEVIN J. WEST
Robert J. Almond '93


BECAUSE NO ONE DEMANDED IT! *
MAW OF MADNESS!
WHICH FIRST APPEARED IN MARVEL PRESENTS GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #4 --APRIL 1976
(* WELL, OKAY... KEVIN DEMANDED IT!)
KEVIN J. WEST & Bob Almond '93


STARHAWK
NIKKI
YELLOW JACKET
GALS OF THE GUARDIANS
WEST '93 + Almond


THE MARTIANS CAME...
...THEY SAW...
...AND THEY CONQUERED!
WEST / Almond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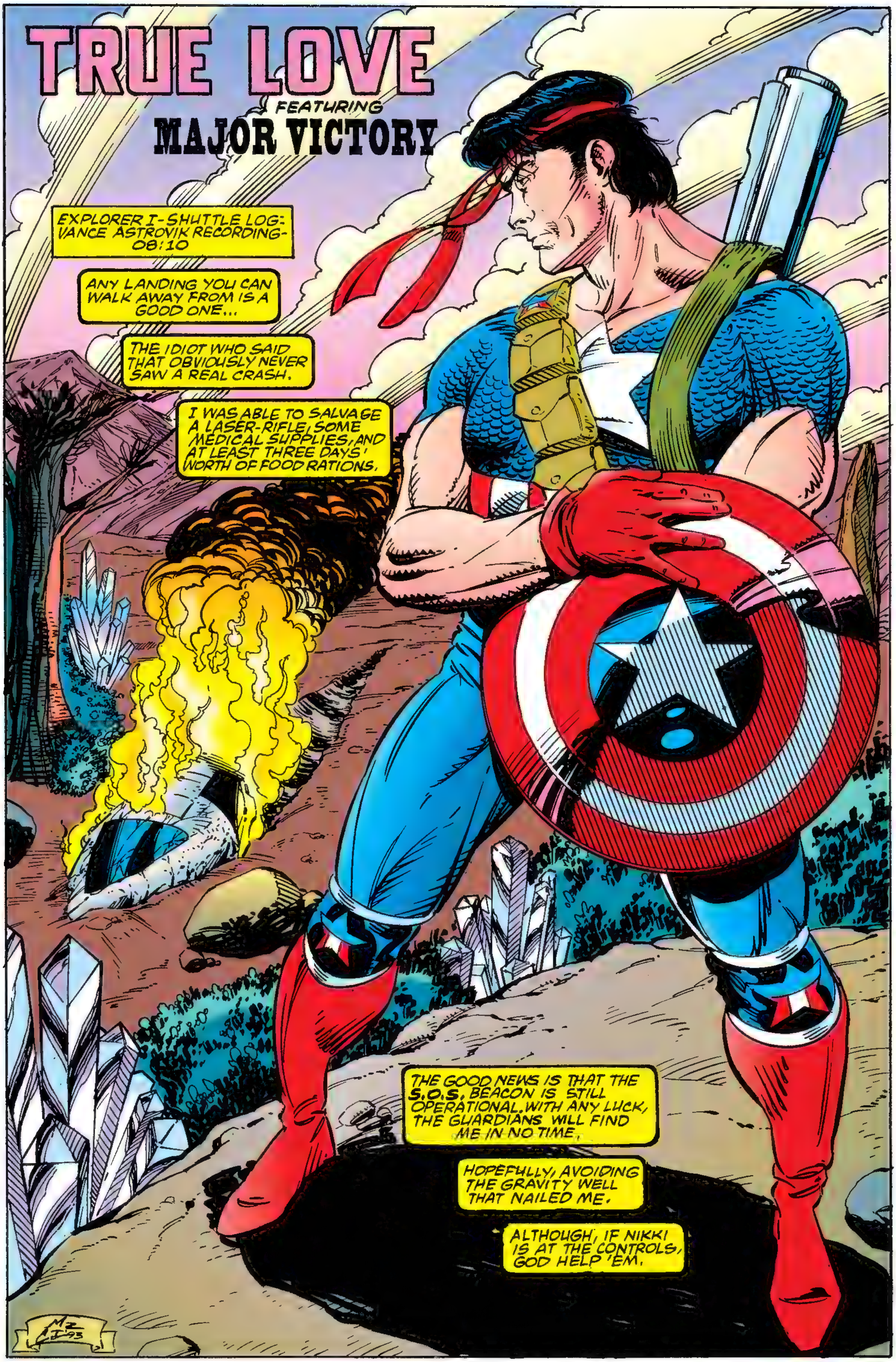
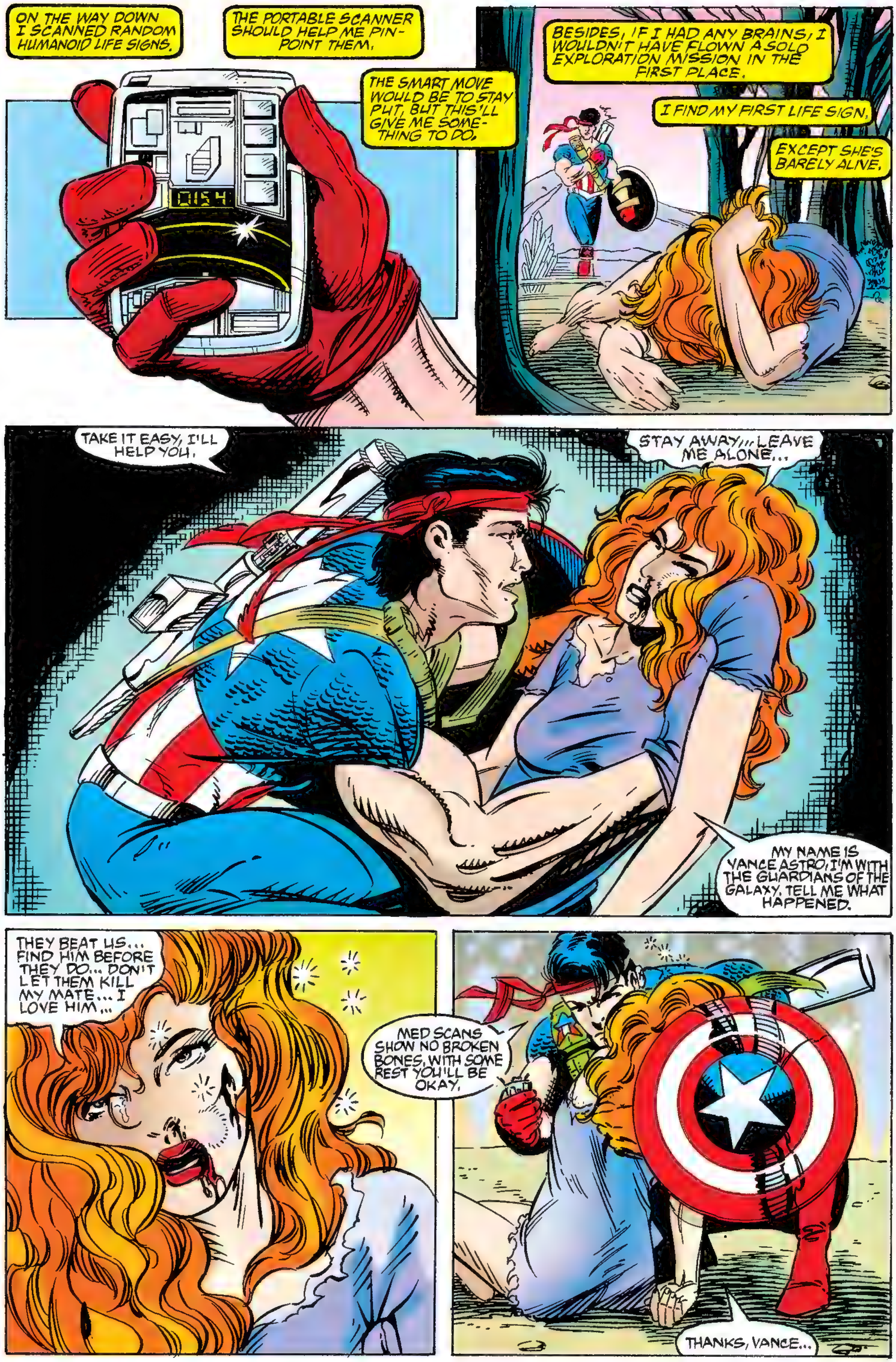
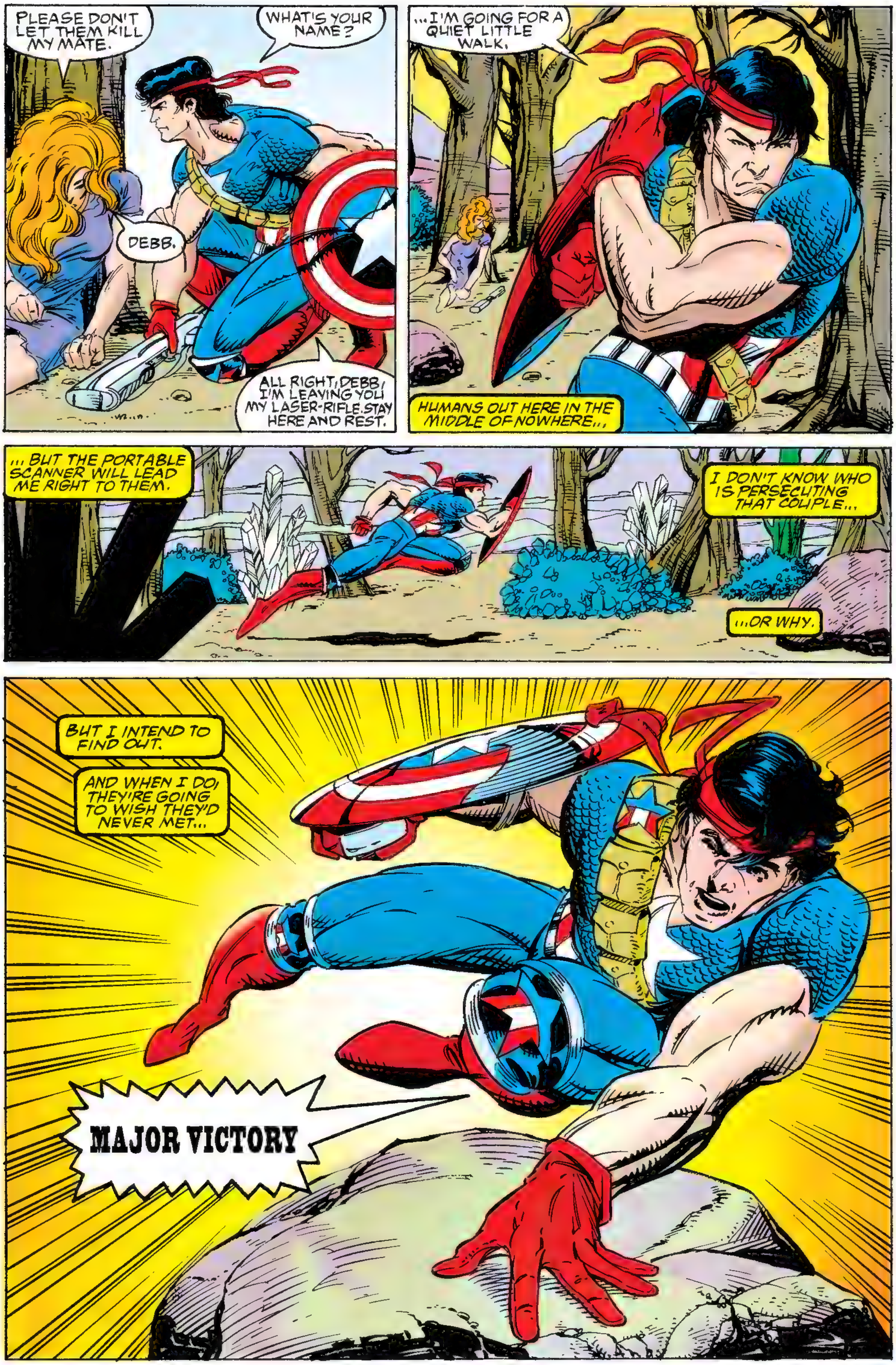
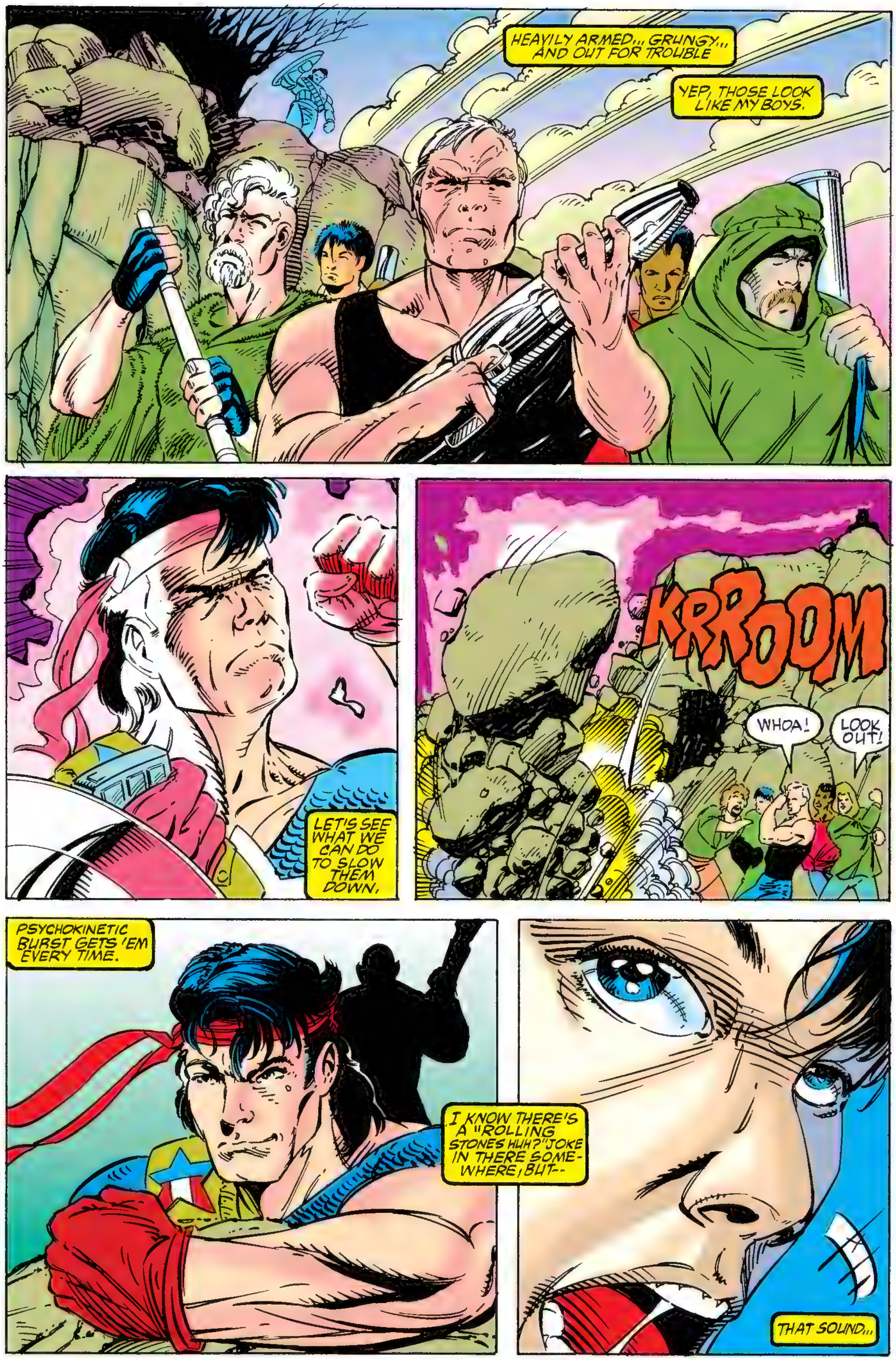
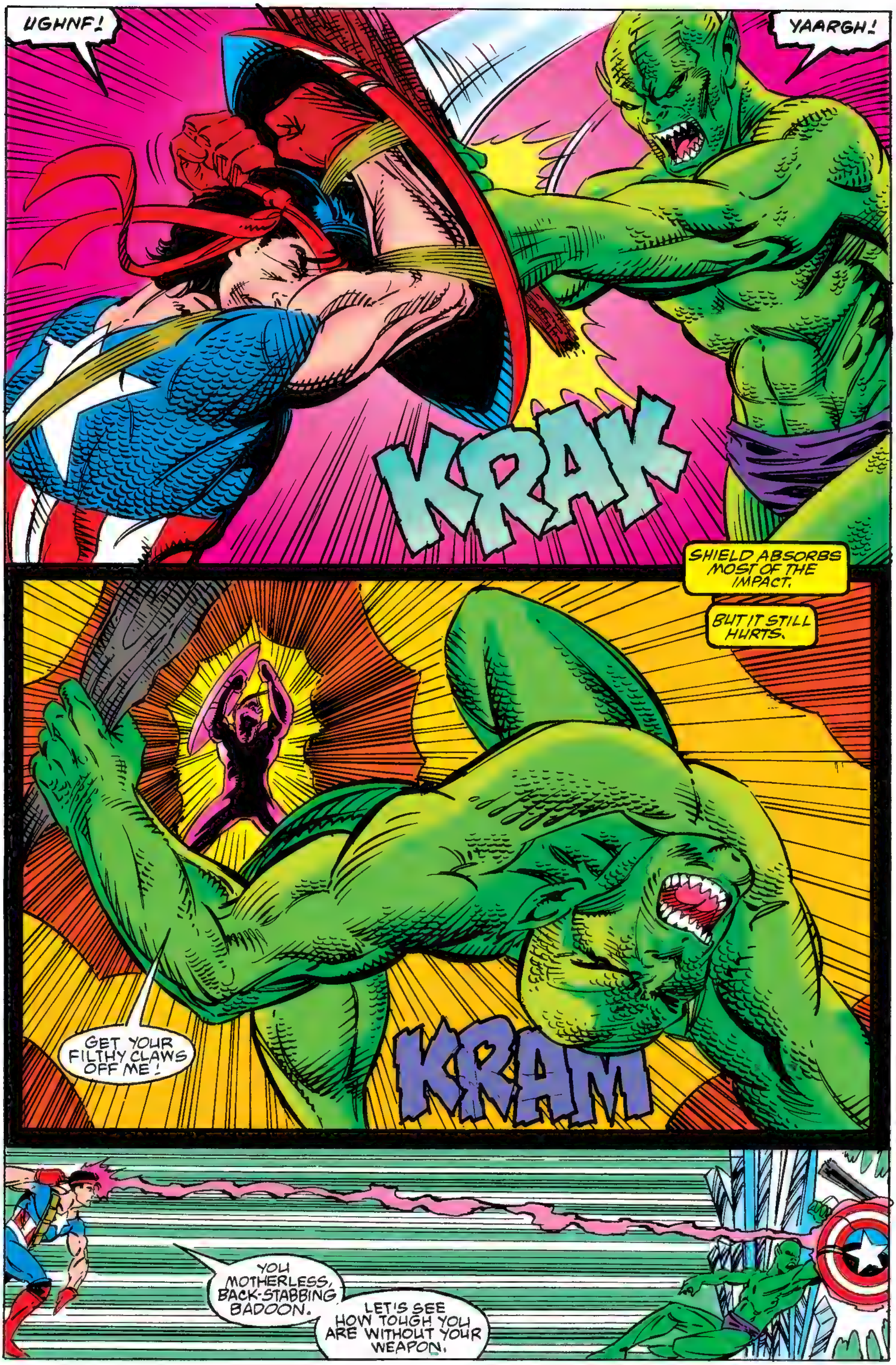
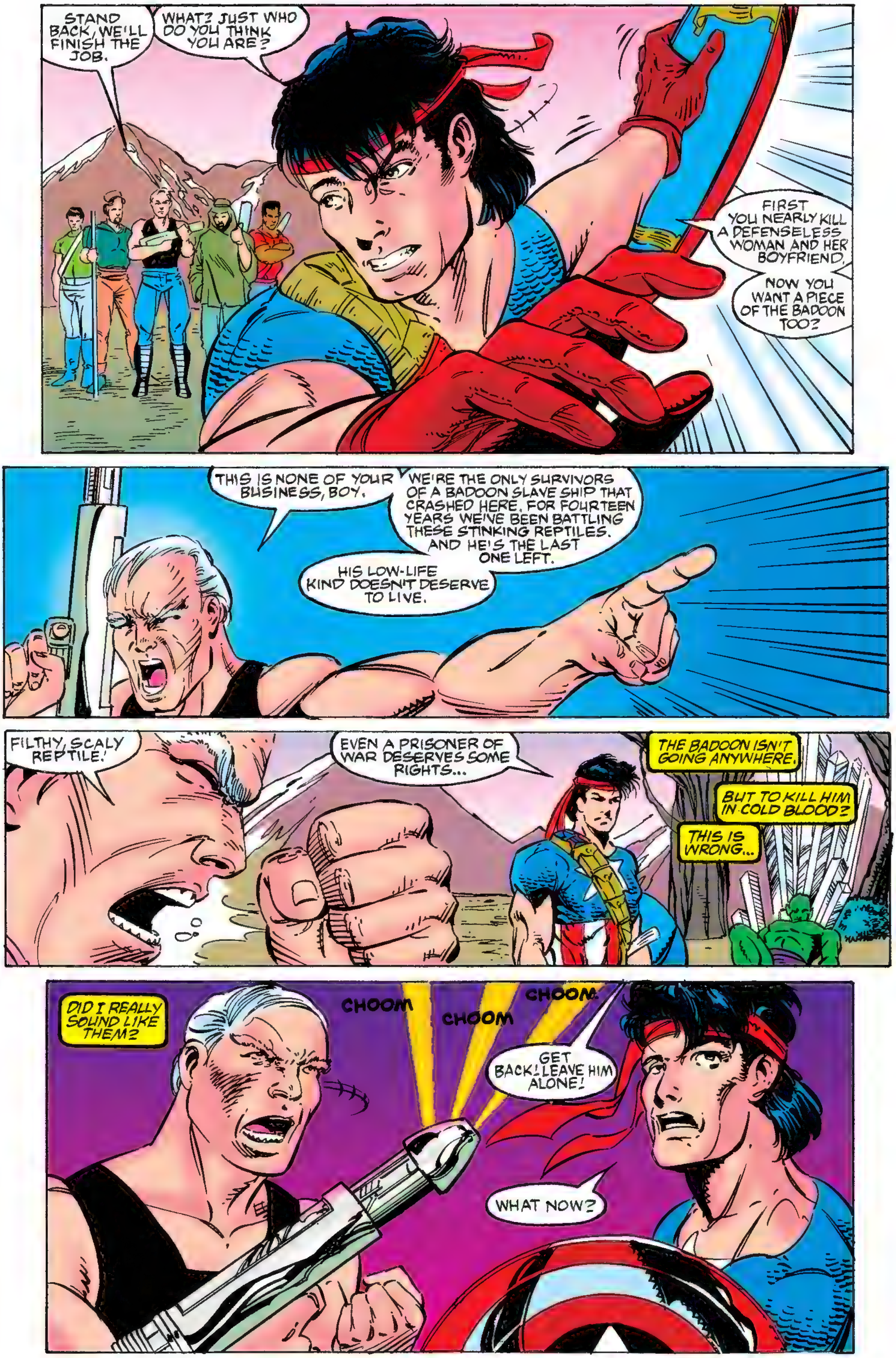

TRUE LOVE
FEATURING
MAJOR VICTORY
EXPLORER I-SHUTTLE LOG: VANCE ASTROVIK RECORDING-08:10
ANY LANDING YOU CAN WALK AWAY FROM IS A GOOD ONE...
THE IDIOT WHO SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY NEVER SAW A REAL CRASH.
I WAS ABLE TO SALVAGE A LASER-RIFLE, SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND AT LEAST THREE DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD RATIONS.
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE S.O.S. BEACON IS STILL OPERATIONAL. WITH ANY LUCK, THE GUARDIANS WILL FIND ME IN NO TIME.
HOPEFULLY, AVOIDING THE GRAVITY WELL THAT NAILED ME.
ALTHOUGH, IF NIKKI IS AT THE CONTROLS, GOD HELP 'EM.

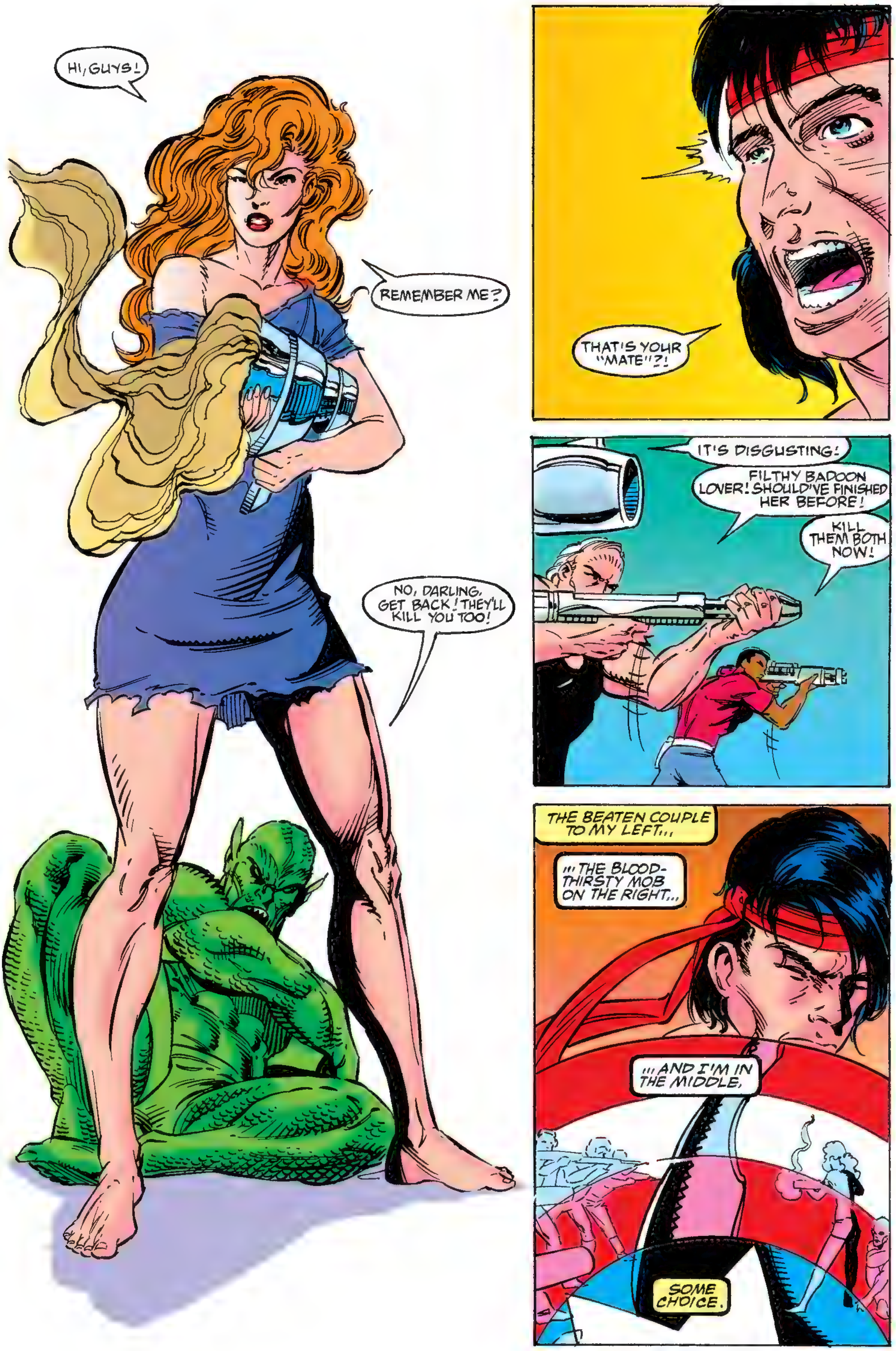

ON THE WAY DOWN I SCANNED RANDOM HUMANOID LIFE SIGNS.
THE PORTABLE SCANNER SHOULD HELP ME PIN-POINT THEM.
THE SMART MOVE WOULD BE TO STAY PUT, BUT THIS'LL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO.
0154
BESIDES, IF I HAD ANY BRAINS, I WOULDN'T HAVE FLOWN A SOLO EXPLORATION MISSION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I FIND MY FIRST LIFE SIGN.
EXCEPT SHE'S BARELY ALIVE.
TAKE IT EASY, I'LL HELP YOU.
STAY AWAY... LEAVE ME ALONE...
MY NAME IS VANCE ASTRO, I'M WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
THEY BEAT US... FIND HIM BEFORE THEY DO... DON'T LET THEM KILL MY MATE... I LOVE HIM...
MED SCANS SHOW NO BROKEN BONES, WITH SOME REST YOU'LL BE OKAY.
THANKS, VANCE...

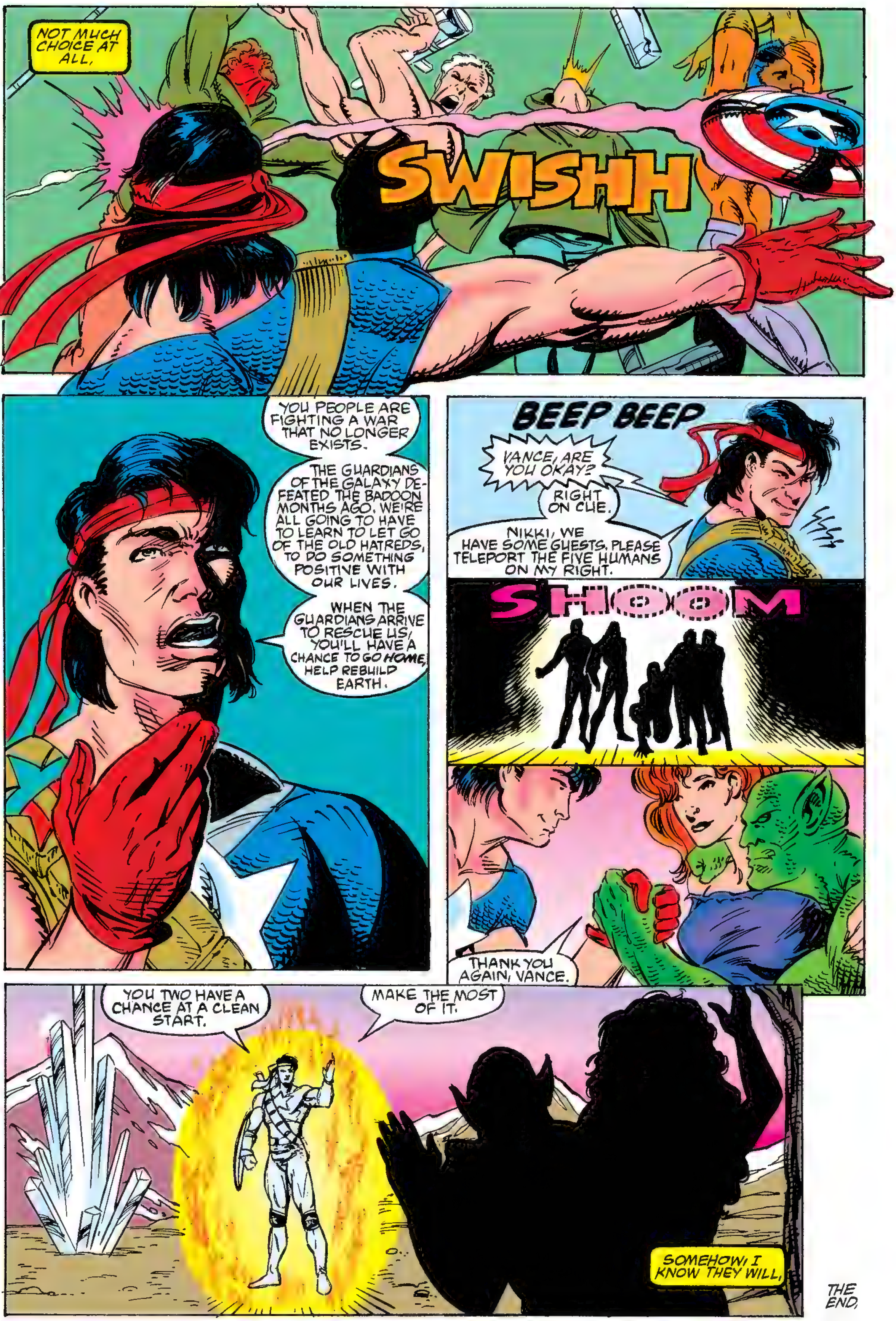

PLEASE DON'T LET THEM KILL MY MATE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
DEBB.
ALL RIGHT, DEBB, I'M LEAVING YOU MY LASER-RIFLE. STAY HERE AND REST.
...I'M GOING FOR A QUIET LITTLE WALK.
HUMANS OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...
...BUT THE PORTABLE SCANNER WILL LEAD ME RIGHT TO THEM.
I DON'T KNOW WHO IS PERSECUTING THAT COUPLE...
...OR WHY.
BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.
AND WHEN I DO, THEY'RE GOING TO WISH THEY'D NEVER MET...
MAJOR VICTORY


HEAVILY ARMED... GRUNGY... AND OUT FOR TROUBLE
YEP, THOSE LOOK LIKE MY BOYS.
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO SLOW THEM DOWN.
KRROOM
WHOA!
LOOK OUT!
PSYCHOKINETIC BURST GETS 'EM EVERY TIME.
I KNOW THERE'S A "ROLLING STONES HUH?" JOKE IN THERE SOME-WHERE, BUT--
THAT SOUND...

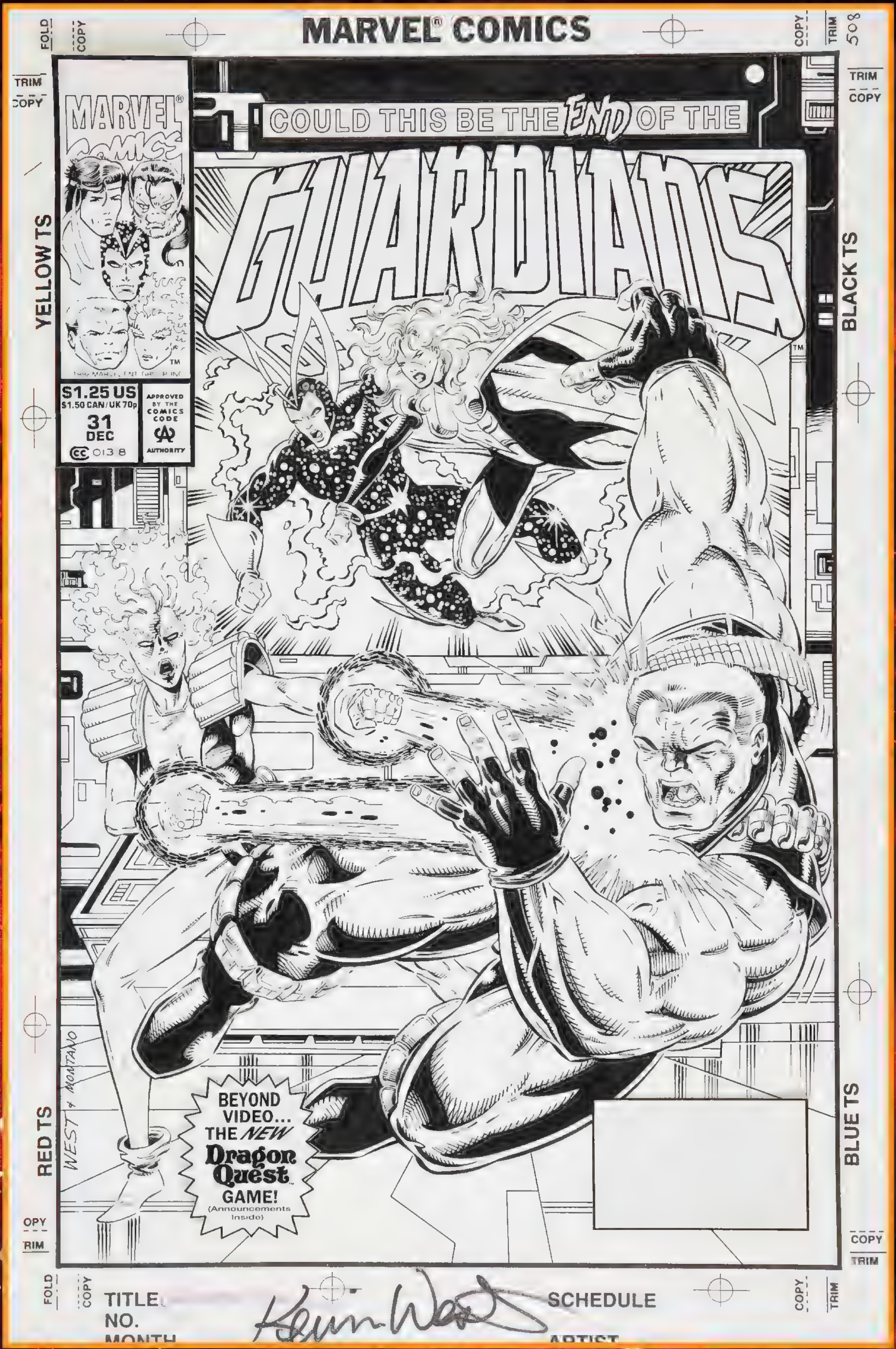

UGHNF!
YAARGH!
KRAK
SHIELD ABSORBS MOST OF THE IMPACT.
BUT IT STILL HURTS.
GET YOUR FILTHY CLAWS OFF ME!
KRAM
YOU MOTHERLESS, BACK-STABBING BADOON.
LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR WEAPON.


STAND BACK, WE'LL FINISH THE JOB.
WHAT? JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
FIRST YOU NEARLY KILL A DEFENSELESS WOMAN AND HER BOYFRIEND.
NOW YOU WANT A PIECE OF THE BADOON TOO?
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, BOY.
WE'RE THE ONLY SURVIVORS OF A BADOON SLAVE SHIP THAT CRASHED HERE. FOR FOURTEEN YEARS WE'VE BEEN BATTLING THESE STINKING REPTILES. AND HE'S THE LAST ONE LEFT.
HIS LOW-LIFE KIND DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE.
FILTHY, SCALY REPTILE!
EVEN A PRISONER OF WAR DESERVES SOME RIGHTS...
THE BADOON ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
BUT TO KILL HIM IN COLD BLOOD?
THIS IS WRONG...
DID I REALLY SOUND LIKE THEM?
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
GET BACK! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
WHAT NOW?


HI, GUYS!
REMEMBER ME?
NO, DARLING, GET BACK! THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO!
THAT'S YOUR "MATE"?!
IT'S DISGUSTING!
FILTHY BADOON LOVER! SHOULD'VE FINISHED HER BEFORE!
KILL THEM BOTH NOW!
THE BEATEN COUPLE TO MY LEFT...
...THE BLOOD-THIRSTY MOB ON THE RIGHT...
...AND I'M IN THE MIDDLE.
SOME CHOICE.


NOT MUCH CHOICE AT ALL,
SWISHH
YOU PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING A WAR THAT NO LONGER EXISTS.
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY DEFEATED THE BADOON MONTHS AGO. WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO LET GO OF THE OLD HATREDS, TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE WITH OUR LIVES.
WHEN THE GUARDIANS ARRIVE TO RESCUE US, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO *HOME*, HELP REBUILD EARTH.
BEEP BEEP
VANCE, ARE YOU OKAY?
RIGHT ON CUE.
NIKKI, WE HAVE SOME GUESTS. PLEASE TELEPORT THE FIVE HUMANS ON MY RIGHT.
SHOOM
THANK YOU AGAIN, VANCE.
YOU TWO HAVE A CHANCE AT A CLEAN START.
MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
SOMEHOW, I KNOW THEY WILL,

THE END,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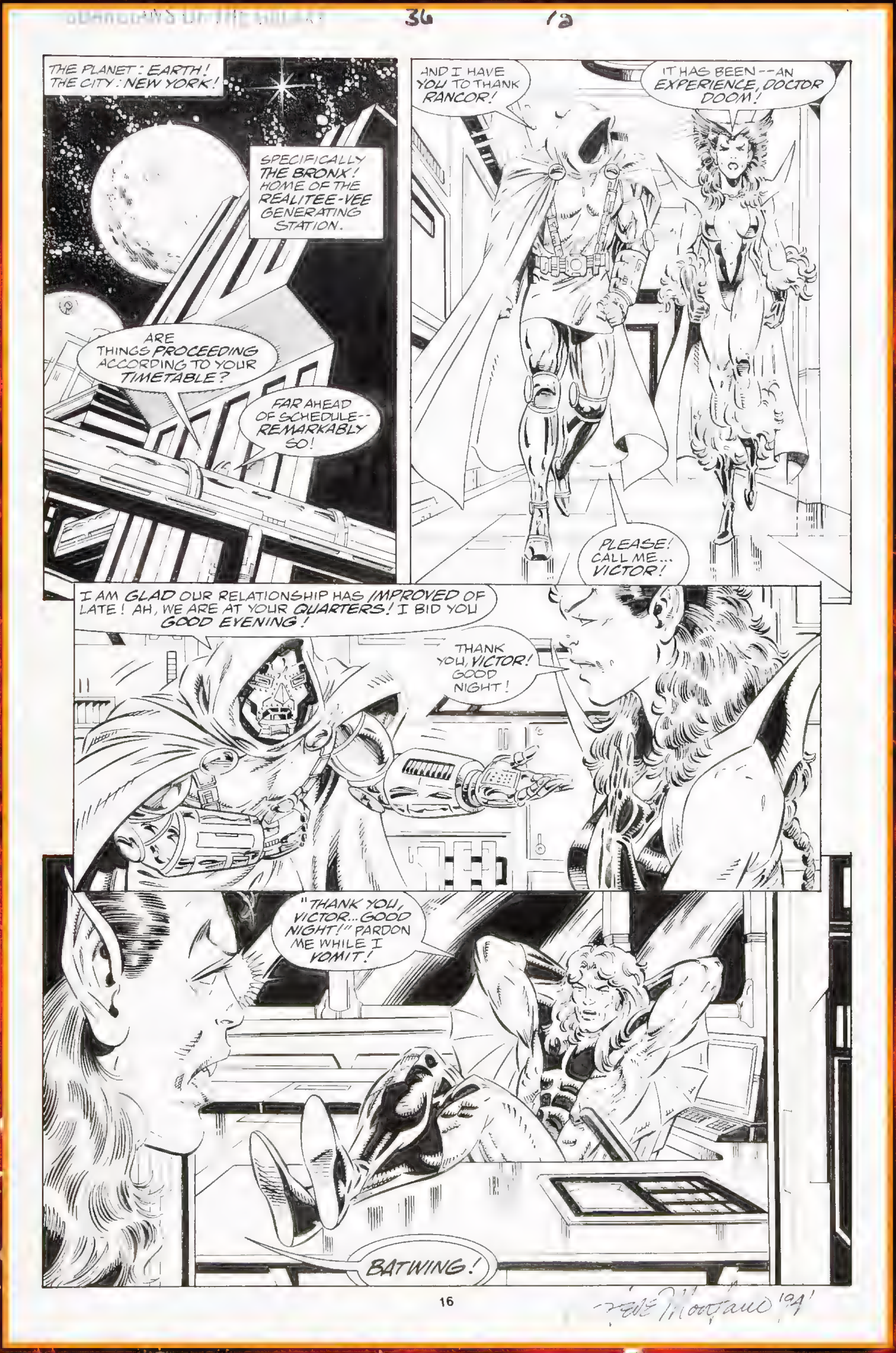
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 36 12
THE PLANET: EARTH! THE CITY: NEW YORK!
SPECIFICALLY THE BRONX! HOME OF THE REALITEE-VEE GENERATING STATION.
ARE THINGS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO YOUR TIMETABLE?
FAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE-- REMARKABLY SO!
AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK RANCOR!
IT HAS BEEN--AN EXPERIENCE, DOCTOR DOOM!
PLEASE! CALL ME... VICTOR!
I AM GLAD OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS IMPROVED OF LATE! AH, WE ARE AT YOUR QUARTERS! I BID YOU GOOD EVENING!
THANK YOU, VICTOR! GOOD NIGHT!
"THANK YOU, VICTOR... GOOD NIGHT!" PARDON ME WHILE I VOMIT!
BATWING!
16
Steve Montano '94

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #36,
PAGE 12 ART BY KEVIN WEST & STEVE MONTANO

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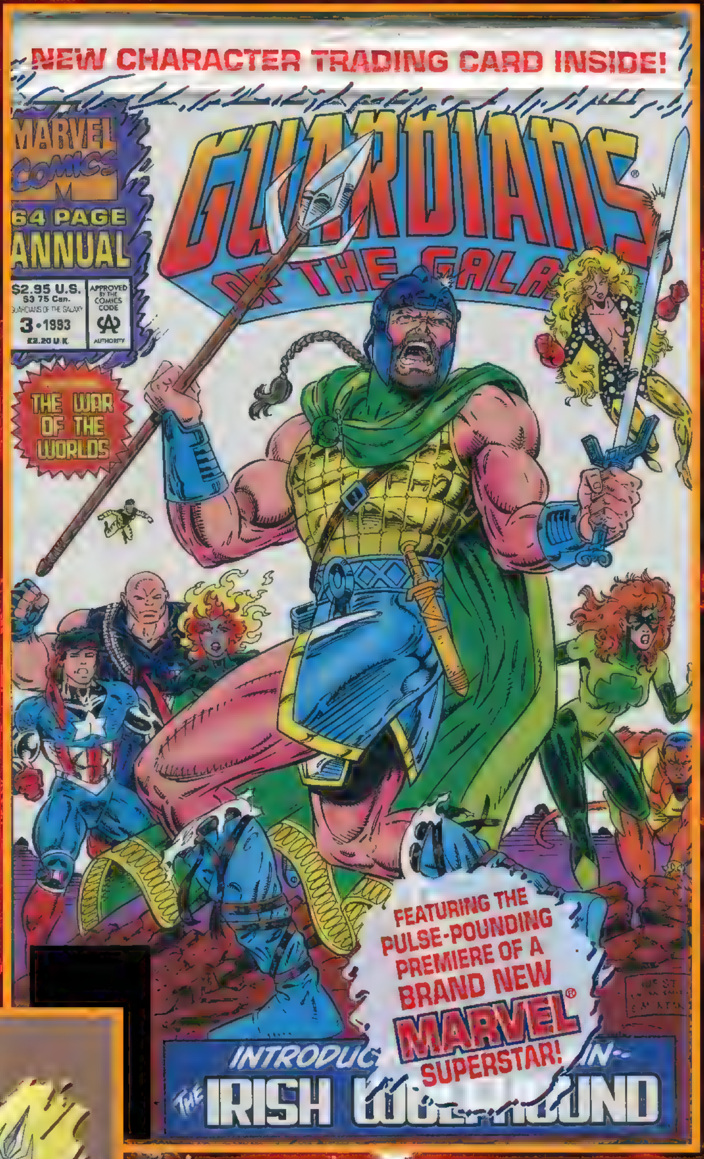
EACH OF MARVEL'S 1993 ANNUALS INTRODUCED AN ALL-NEW CHARACTER, AND WAS POLYBAGGED WITH A COLLECTIBLE TRADING CARD FEATURING THAT CHARACTER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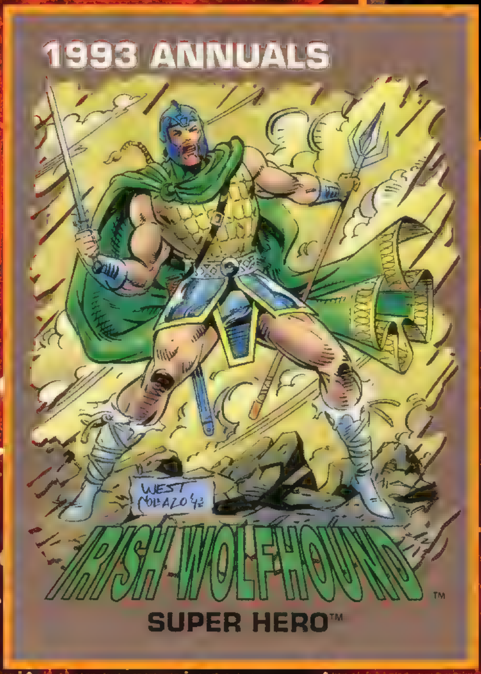
THE WAR OF THE WORLDS
FEATURING THE PULSE-POUNDING PREMIERE OF A BRAND NEW MARVEL SUPERSTAR!
INTRODUC... -IN- THE IRISH WOLFHOUND


1993 ANNUALS
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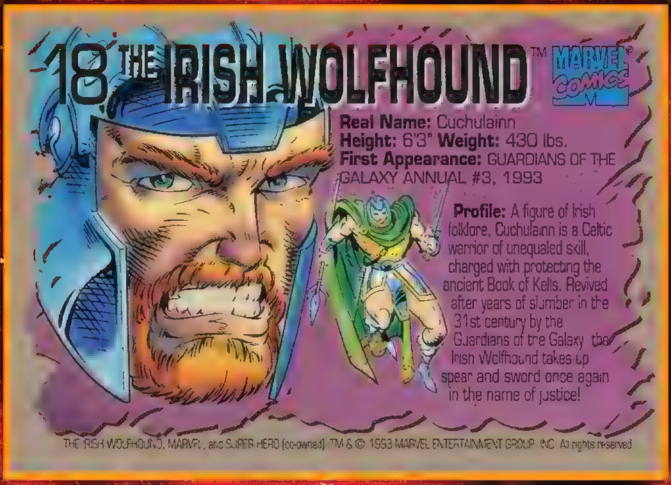
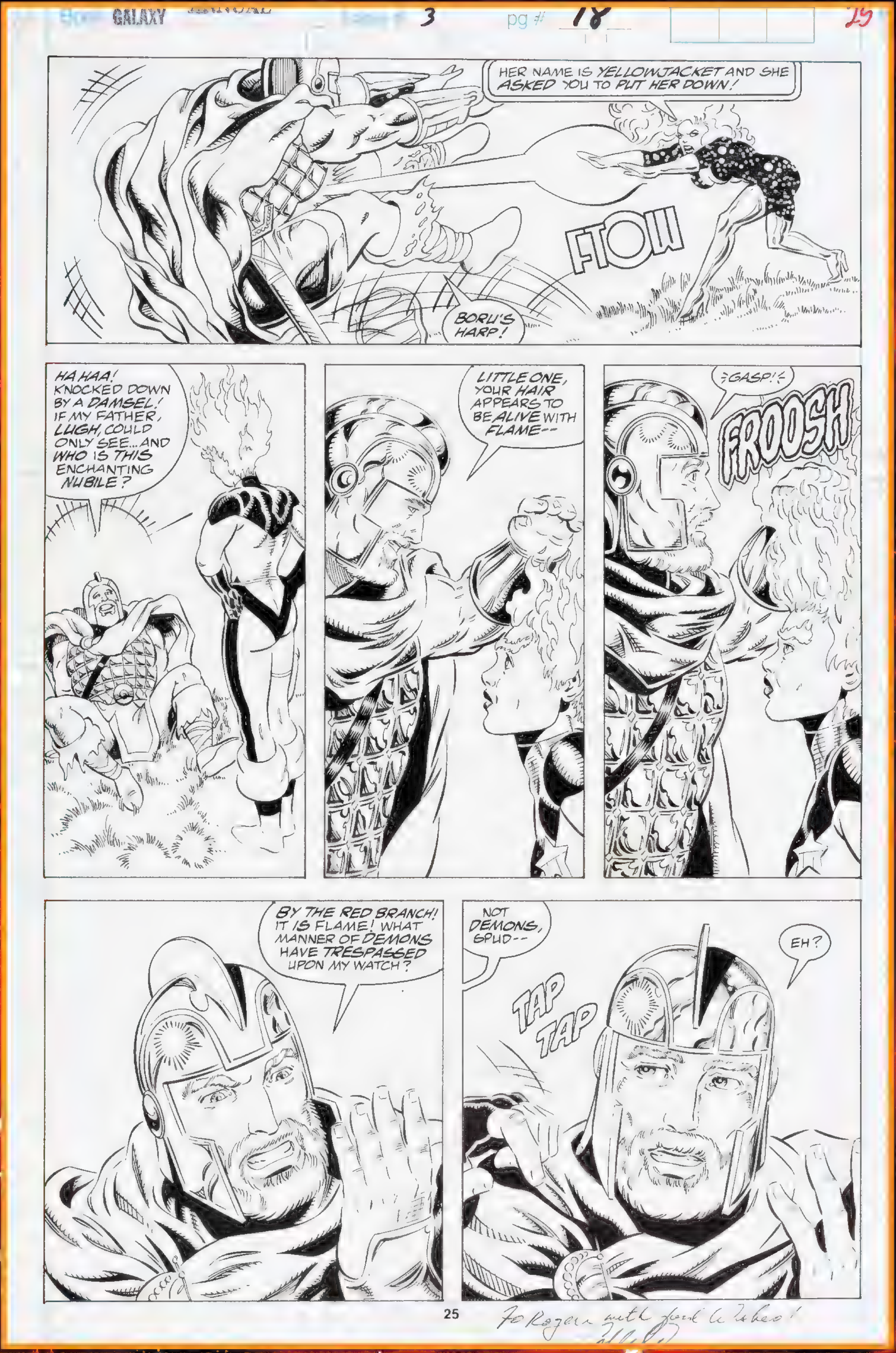

18 THE IRISH WOLFHOUND™

Real Name: Cuchulainn
Height: 6'3" **Weight:** 430 lbs.
First Appearance: GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #3, 1993

Profile: A figure of Irish folklore, Cuchulainn is a Celtic warrior of unequaled skill, charged with protecting the ancient Book of Kells. Revived after years of slumber in the 31st century by the Guardians of the Galaxy, the Irish Wolfhound takes up spear and sword once again in the name of justice!

THE IRISH WOLFHOUND, MARVEL, and SUPER HERO (co-owned) TM & © 1993 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. All rights reserved

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #3'S IRISH WOLFHOUND TRADING-CARD ART BY KEVIN WEST & HECTOR COLLAZO


GALAXY ANNUAL 3 pg # 18
25
HER NAME IS YELLOWJACKET AND SHE ASKED YOU TO PUT HER DOWN!
FTOW
BORU'S HARP!
HA HAA! KNOCKED DOWN BY A DAMSEL! IF MY FATHER, LUGH, COULD ONLY SEE... AND WHO IS THIS ENCHANTING NUBILE?
LITTLE ONE, YOUR HAIR APPEARS TO BE ALIVE WITH FLAME--
GASP!
FROOSH
BY THE RED BRANCH! IT IS FLAME! WHAT MANNER OF DEMONS HAVE TRESPASSED UPON MY WATCH?
NOT DEMONS, SPUD--
EH?
TAP TAP
25
To Roger with good wishes!

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #3,
PAGE 19 ART BY COLLEEN DORAN & STEVE MONTANO

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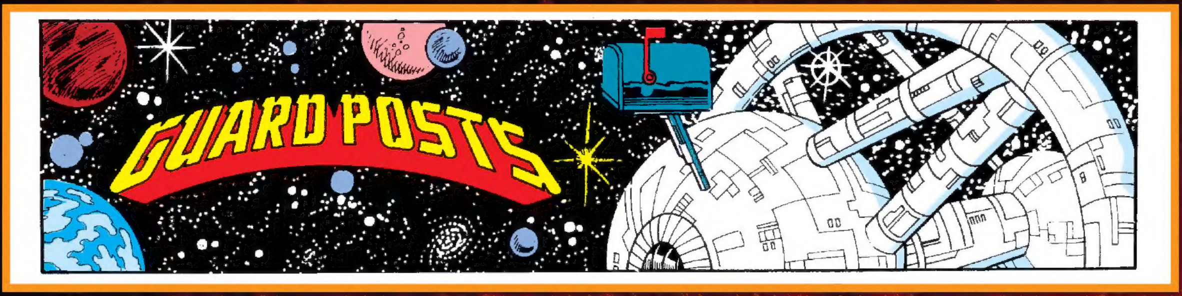
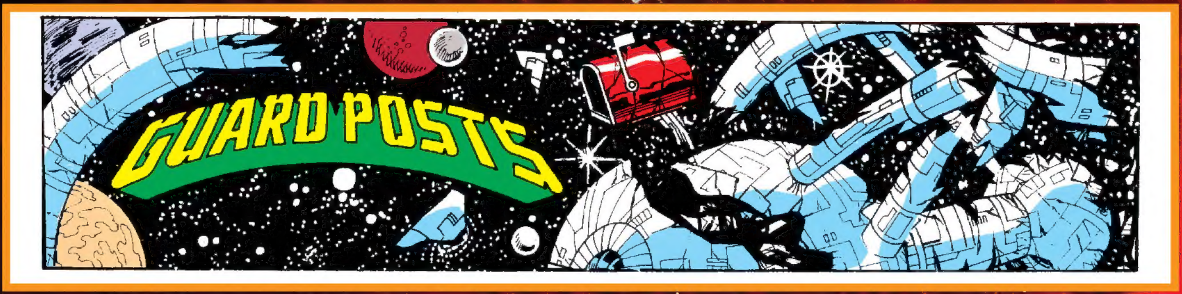
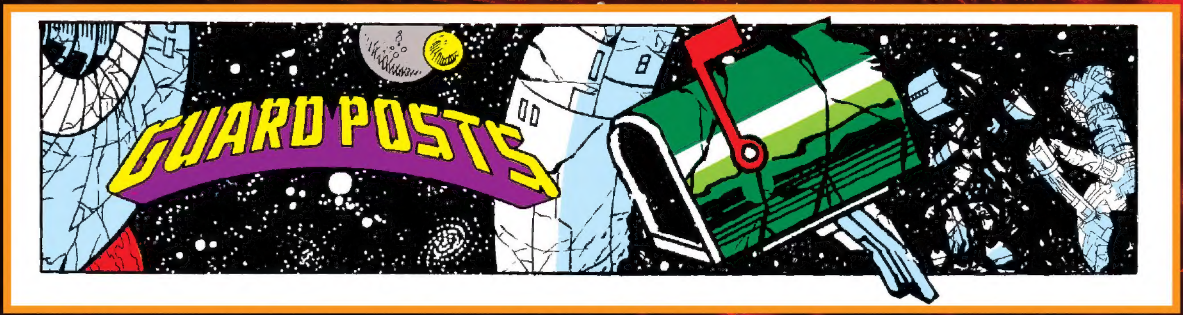
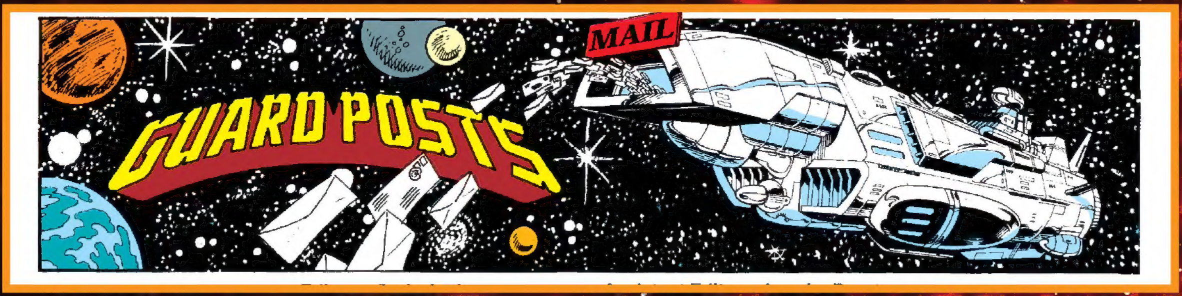

GUARD POSTS


GUARD POSTS


GUARD POSTS


GUARD POSTS
MAIL

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #35-38'S LETTERS-PAGE LOGOS. NORMALLY THE LOGO DEPICTED THE GUARDIAN'S BASE DRYDOCK, BUT AFTER DRYDOCK'S DESTRUCTION IN ISSUE #35, THE LOGOS WERE CHANGED – FIRST SHOWING RUBBLE IN SPACE, THEN THE GUARDIANS' NEW SHIP *ICARUS*.

WEST & MONTANO

CONTINUE EXPLORING THE 31ST-CENTURY MARVEL UNIVERSE WITH THE ORIGINAL GUARDIANS!

Will the team survive a Major blow when Vance Astro walks out? Meanwhile, Charlie-27 fights for his life against a Captain Universe-powered Badoon, and Starhawk makes her dramatic return – as do the heavyweight Galactic Guardians! Even with the cosmic power of Firelord, a Phoenix, a Spirit of Vengeance and the thousand-year-old former Wonder Man, can two teams of Guardians stop the Dread Dormammu? Perhaps with some help from this era's Sorcerer Supreme...or a strangely recognizable Ancient One! But the most surprising arrival of all is Rita DeMara, the second Yellowjacket! Will this former Master of Evil find her redemption in the far future?

Collecting *Guardians of the Galaxy (1990) #30-39* and *Annual #3*, and material from *Marvel Comics Presents (1988) #134* – written by Michael Gallagher and Mariano Nicieza; and illustrated by Kevin West, Colleen Doran and Fred Mendez.

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